



## Trump discusses 'Russian Hoax' in long call with Putin

President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with Slovak Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini in the Oval Office of the White House, Friday, May 3, 2019, in Washington. Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin discussed what Trump again dismissed as the "Russian Hoax" in their first known

phone call since the release of special counsel Robert Mueller's report on Russia's extensive meddling during the 2016 election campaign. Putin chuckled

about Mueller's conclusions, Trump said.

During their conversation on Friday, which the White House and Kremlin said lasted more than an hour,

they also discussed a possible three-party arms control pact with China, North Korea's nuclear weapons program, Ukraine and the crisis in Venezuela, where

Moscow is propping up the current government over the U.S.-backed opposition.

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# Unemployment hits 49-year low as U.S. employers step up hiring

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**  
AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Hiring accelerated and pay rose at a solid pace in April, setting the stage for healthy U.S. economic growth to endure despite fears of a slowdown earlier this year. Employers added 263,000 jobs, with the unemployment rate dropping to a five-decade low of 3.6% from 3.8%, though that drop partly reflected an increase in the number of Americans who stopped looking for work. Average hourly pay rose 3.2% from 12 months earlier, matching March's year-over-year increase.

Friday's jobs report from the government showed that economic growth remains brisk enough to encourage strong hiring nearly a decade into the economy's recovery from the Great Recession. The economic expansion, which has fueled 103 straight months of hiring, is set to become the longest in history in July.

"All of the recession talk earlier in the spring was much ado about nothing," said Gus Faucher, chief econo-



In this March 7, 2019, photo visitors to the Pittsburgh veterans job fair meet with recruiters at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

mist at PNC.

Trump administration officials insisted that the job market's gains were a result of the president's tax cuts and deregulatory policies. "We have entered a very strong and durable prosperity cycle," said Larry Kudlow, director of the White House's National Economic Council.

President Donald Trump has also pressed the Federal Reserve to cut short-term interest rates because inflation remains low. But most economists said the healthy jobs picture, against the backdrop of low inflation, would reinforce the Fed's current wait-and-see approach. The Fed raised rates four times last year but has signaled that it doesn't foresee any rate increases this year.

Investors welcomed the April jobs data by sending stock prices broadly higher. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed up 197 points, or 0.75%.

Jason Guggisberg, vice president of Adecco USA, a staffing firm that finds temporary and permanent hires for business clients, said companies are doing much more to attract workers. They are offering more perks — like free lunches or weekly happy hours — and allowing more flexible work schedules.

Some are also raising pay, though Guggisberg said many of them have to be persuaded to do so. Adecco often has to show its clients data about how many jobs are available in a given area and how few workers are actually searching for jobs.

"We are constantly having conversations with clients about supply and demand"

and reminding them that most applicants have multiple job opportunities, he said. "Two years ago, I don't know that I ever had that conversation."

The brightening economic picture represents a sharp improvement from the start of the year. At the time, the government was enduring a partial shutdown, the stock market had plunged, trade tensions between the United States and China were flaring and the Fed had just raised short-term rates in December. Analysts worried that the economy might barely expand in the first three months of the year and might even tip into recession in the ensuing months.

Yet the outlook soon brightened. Chair Jerome Powell signaled that the Fed would put rate hikes on hold. Trade negotiations between the U.S. and China made some progress. The economic outlook in some other major economies improved. Share prices rebounded.

And in the end, the government reported that the U.S. economy grew at a 3.2% annual rate in the January-March period — the strongest pace for a first quarter since 2015. That said, the growth was led mostly by factors that could prove temporary — a restocking of inventories in warehous-

es and on store shelves and a narrowing of the U.S. trade deficit. By contrast, consumer spending and business investment, which more closely reflect the economy's underlying strength, were relatively weak.

But American households have become more confident since the winter and are ramping up spending. Consumer spending surged in March by the most in nearly a decade. A likely factor is that steady job growth and solid wage increases have enlarged Americans' paychecks.

Businesses are also spending more freely. Orders to U.S. factories for long-lasting capital goods jumped in March by the most in eight months. That suggested that companies were buying more computers, machinery and other equipment to keep up with growing customer demand.

Years of steady hiring have sharply lowered unemployment for a range of population groups. The unemployment rate for women fell last month to 3.1%, the lowest point since 1953. The rate for Latinos dropped to 4.2%, a record low since 1973, when the government began tracking the data.

For Asians, joblessness has matched a record low of 2.2%. And the unemployment rate for veterans of the Iraq and Afghan wars dropped to 1.7%, also a record low.

Most of last month's job growth occurred in services, which includes both higher-paying jobs in information technology and lower-paying temporary work. Manufacturers added just 4,000 jobs. Construction firms gained 33,000, mostly on public infrastructure projects.

Professional and business services, which include IT networking jobs as well as accountants and engineers, led the gains with 76,000. Education and health care added 62,000 jobs, while a category that mostly includes restaurants and hotels gained 34,000. □

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## HOAX

Continued from Front

"We had a good conversation about many things," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

Trump said the two leaders were considering a new nuclear agreement "where we make less and they make less. And maybe even where we get rid of some of the tremendous firepower that we have right now." He said they had discussed the possibility of including China in the deal and that China would "very much would like to be a part of" it.

But more interesting, perhaps, was what was left unsaid.

Trump said that, at no point, did he warn Putin not to meddle in the next election. And while he and Putin did discuss Mueller's findings, they appeared to gloss over Mueller's description of the extensive efforts Russia took to interfere in the 2016 election, including the 25 Russians indicted for that effort.

"We discussed it," Trump said of the report. "He actually sort of smiled when he said something to the effect that, 'It started off as a mountain and it ended up being a mouse,'" Trump said of Putin. "But he knew that because he knew there was no collusion whatsoever. So pretty much that's what it was."

Trump has repeatedly declined to publicly rebuff Putin for the 2016 operation. And their latest conversation suggests that Mueller's findings have done little to persuade Trump of the gravity of the threat of foreign election interference or derail his efforts to forge

a closer relationship with Putin.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders later said Trump didn't tell Putin not to meddle in the 2020 election because he's made that clear in the past. "He doesn't need to do that every two seconds," she said. Mueller's report concluded that Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election was "sweeping and systematic." Ultimately, Mueller's investigators did not find a criminal conspiracy between Russia and the Trump campaign, but they found multiple contacts. Indeed, the report concluded that "the Russian government perceived it would benefit from a Trump presidency and worked to secure that outcome, and that the Campaign expected it would benefit electorally from information stolen and released through Russian efforts."

Trump has focused only on Mueller's top-line conclusions, hailing the lack of evidence of a conspiracy as a political win.

Trump tweeted after the call that the two had discussed the "Russian Hoax" among other topics.

"As I have always said, long before the Witch Hunt started, getting along with Russia, China, and everyone is a good thing, not a bad thing," he wrote.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer slammed Trump for failing to press Putin on the report's "extensive evidence that Russia hacked our elections," saying: "Trump's priorities are appalling and undermine democracy."

Trump said he and Putin had instead focused on



White House press secretary Sarah Sanders speaks with reporters outside the White House, Friday, May 3, 2019, in Washington. Associated Press

other topics, including the possibility of the new nuclear arms deal between the U.S., Russia and China. He said U.S. officials had broached the idea with the Chinese during ongoing trade talks and that China was "excited about that, maybe even more excited than about trade." Discussions on a new nuclear deal, he said, would likely begin shortly between the U.S. and Russia, with China potentially added "down the road."

Trump did not say which arms control agreement he and Putin had discussed, but the Russian state news agency Tass reported that they talked about the New START treaty, the last major arms-control treaty remaining between the U.S. and Russia.

The treaty, which was signed in 2010 and expires in 2021, restricts both the U.S. and Russia to 1,550 deployed strategic nuclear warheads on a maximum of 700 deployed intercontinental ballistic missiles and strategic bombers.

"There was a discussion about having — extend-

ing the current nuclear agreement — as well as discussions about potentially starting a new one that could include China as well," Sanders said.

Trump earlier this year announced that he was pulling the U.S. out of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, or INF, a decades-old nuclear arms treaty with Russia. Trump accused Moscow of violating its terms with "impunity" by deploying missiles banned by the pact. Moscow denies violating it and has accused Washington of being in non-compliance.

Trump's decision to exit the INF treaty reflected his administration's view that it was an unacceptable obstacle to more forcefully confronting not only Russia but also China. China's military has grown mightily since that treaty was signed, and the pact had prevented the U.S. from deploying weapons to counter some of those being developed by Beijing.

"The world has moved on from the Cold War and its bilateral arms control treat-

ties that cover limited types of nuclear weapons or only certain ranges of adversary missiles," national security adviser John Bolton told The Associated Press last week. "Russia and China must be brought to the table."

A Kremlin readout of the call said the two presidents confirmed their mutual desire "to intensify dialogue in various fields, including on issues of strategic stability," but gave no details about a possible arms deal.

Trump said the two also spoke extensively about North Korea's nuclear weapons program. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un traveled to Russia last week to meet with Putin. Sanders said Trump said several times that it was important for Russia to continue to help put pressure on North Korea to denuclearize.

The statement released by the Kremlin after Friday's call said Putin stressed that "Pyongyang's conscientious fulfillment of its obligations should be accompanied by reciprocal steps to reduce sanctions pressure on North Korea."

On Venezuela, Trump insisted that Putin "is not looking at all to get involved in Venezuela, other than he'd like to see something positive happen for Venezuela." That's despite the fact that Russia has forged a political, military and economic alliance with Venezuela over many years and is helping to support President Nicolas Maduro's embattled government.

The Kremlin said that during the call, Putin stressed that only the Venezuelan people have the right to determine the future of their country. □





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## Pushing off impeachment, Democrats find unity attacking Barr

By MARY CLARE JALONICK  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Democrats are splintered by calls to impeach President Donald Trump. But they have found another common enemy and an alternate political foil in Attorney General William Barr.

Calls for Barr's resignation erupted across the Democratic Party this week after he testified before the Senate and rebuffed the House twice, first by denying Democrats a full, unredacted version of special counsel Robert Mueller's report, and then by skipping a hearing to review it. In response, Democrats threatened to hold Barr in criminal contempt of Congress — a lengthy legal process that could go on for months.

The feud with Barr has animated Democrats and temporarily shifted attention away from impeachment — and by extension, the party's divisions over whether to pursue it. But with Trump resisting other congressional investigations, and testimony from Mueller likely on the horizon, the impeachment question seems unlikely to subside for long.

For now, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler, who would lead impeachment proceedings, are putting their emphasis on investigating Trump, his business dealings and his administration. If Democrats do decide to impeach the president, they will have already made part of the case through oversight. Trump's refusal to comply with their requests — with Barr just the latest example — will only strengthen the case.

"Impeachment is never off the table, but should we



House Judiciary Committee Chair Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., waits to start a hearing on the Mueller report without witness Attorney General William Barr who refused to appear, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, May 2, 2019.

Associated Press

start there? I don't agree with that," Pelosi said Friday at an event in Medford, Massachusetts.

Pelosi hasn't held back in her criticism of Barr, accusing him of committing a crime by lying to Congress about his communications with Mueller. Justice Department spokeswoman Kerri Kupec called Pelosi's accusation "reckless, irresponsible and false."

Other members of Pelosi's caucus are going after the attorney general in even stronger terms.

"This is serious misconduct, this is a serious effort by the administration to prevent Congress from doing its oversight, and in fact could form the basis by itself of articles of impeachment," said Rhode Island Rep. David Cicilline, a member of the Judiciary panel, after Barr skipped the hearing Thursday.

Republicans say the Democrats are focusing on Barr as a substitute for impeachment, to avoid the political

backlash that would come with official proceedings against Trump.

Nadler "can't try to pacify his liberal base by pretending to do impeachment without actually taking the plunge," said Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, the top Republican on the Judiciary panel.

Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., called the strategy "impeachment in drag."

The Barr saga appears destined to end up in court. Nadler threatened Friday to hold Barr in contempt if he did not comply with a final request to turn over the Mueller report and the relevant investigative materials. The Justice Department is unlikely to comply, likely prompting a vote of contempt in committee and then the full House.

"The committee is prepared to make every realistic effort to reach an accommodation with the department," Nadler wrote to Barr. "But if the department persists in its baseless refusal to

comply with a validly issued subpoena, the committee will move to contempt proceedings and seek further legal recourse."

The Justice Department declined to comment on Nadler's latest threat of contempt. But White House press secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters that she believes "at no point will it ever be enough" for Democrats.

While a contempt vote would send a message, it wouldn't force the Justice Department to hand over the report. Nor would it guarantee criminal charges against Barr: House approval of the contempt citation would send a criminal referral to the U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia, a Justice Department official who is likely to defend the attorney general.

But if the U.S. attorney declines to prosecute, Democrats have other methods to force compliance with witnesses, like hefty fines for witnesses who fail to ap-

pear. Even as Democrats struggle with Barr, they are in hot pursuit of Mueller's testimony. Nadler said the panel was "firming up the date" for Mueller's testimony and hoped it would be May 15. Trump signaled he won't try to stop it. During a brief Oval Office session with reporters Friday, Trump deferred to Barr, saying, "I don't know. That's up to the attorney general, who I think has done a fantastic job."

It's possible that Barr could block Mueller from appearing, since the special counsel is still a Justice Department employee. But Barr has said he has no objection to Mueller testifying.

On the other side of the Capitol, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., says he doesn't need Mueller to testify to his panel. But he is willing to hear Mueller out on one, narrow matter. On Friday, he offered to let Mueller provide testimony "if you would like" as to whether he felt Barr misrepresented Mueller's views at the Senate hearing.

Barr testified Wednesday that Mueller didn't challenge the accuracy of his memo summarizing the principal conclusions of the special counsel's report, including when they spoke on the phone. Barr made that assertion despite a letter he received in March from Mueller complaining Barr's summary didn't fully capture the "context, nature and substance" of his nearly 400-page report.

Graham invited Mueller to provide testimony "regarding any misrepresentation by the attorney general of the substance of that phone call." He did not specify whether he wanted Mueller to appear in person. □





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# APNewsBreak: Montana governor signs sports betting bill

By MATT VOLZ

Associated Press

**HELENA, Mont. (AP)** — Montana became the first state to legalize sports betting this year after Gov. Steve Bullock signed a bill Friday for the state lottery to oversee a system of wagering through kiosks and mobile applications that could be running by fall.

Montana is at the head of a wave of states passing legislation this year to allow gambling on sports, and it becomes the seventh state to legalize the practice since the U.S. Supreme Court allowed it nationwide last year.

Tennessee's governor will allow a bill in that state to become law without his signature. Bills passed by lawmakers in Iowa and Indiana are awaiting action by the governors. Colorado's Legislature on Friday approved a ballot question that will ask voters this fall if sports gambling should be legalized there.

The Montana law became effective immediately, and supporters expect to move quickly to get the system operating. The bill's sponsor, Democratic Rep. Ryan Lynch, said the goal is to have it running by the start of the football season in September.

"It's a good day for Montana to be able to see sports betting in the marketplace," Lynch said. "I think Montanans will enjoy the new aspect of watching sports for entertainment as well as betting on it."

The bill allows licensed bars and restaurants to have kiosks and mobile applications that can only be used inside those establishments. The Montana Tavern Association had lobbied heavily for legalization, and the measure effectively gives the association's members

a monopoly.

Association executive director John Iverson said the value to restaurants and bars will be in the new customers and those who stay longer because of the gambling.

"Extra cheeseburgers; extra slices of pizza, a few more people filling seats," Iverson said of the expected benefits. "The actual revenue from the gaming isn't going to be significant."

Lottery officials estimate people will wager more than \$65 million in the first year, which would mean about \$3.7 million in revenue to the state after an expected 80 percent payout and expenses.

Both wagers and revenue are expected to rise to \$87 million in bets and \$5.4 million in revenue by 2023, according to estimates. The profits will be mixed with other lottery revenue and go to the state treasury and to a scholarship fund. Lawmakers sent Bullock two bills that would have created competing sports betting systems.

One was the lottery bill, while the other would have allowed private businesses to run sportsbooks, kiosks and mobile apps that would be regulated by the state Department of Justice.

That bill would have imposed an 8.5% tax on sportsbooks and generate at least \$800,000 a year in revenue for the state, according to the bill's sponsor. The sponsors of the bills urged the Democratic governor to sign both bills, saying the competition would be good for the state.

Bullock vetoed the second bill. He said in his veto letter that the lottery has existing infrastructure and is heavily regulated, which ensures a transparent environment.



Lucille Brien plays a video poker machine at the Monte Bar and Casino in Billings, Montana, Tuesday, April 23, 2019.

Associated Press

The private business model, on the other hand, might favor companies with the most money and create a fragmented market that generates a lot less money

for the taxpayers, he said. The private model can be revisited after the new system is tested, he said.

"A new market like this cannot support sports wager-

ing under both systems at once," Bullock wrote. "For the market to succeed, Montana needs to enter the sports wagering market conservatively." □

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# Judge: ICE agents can't use immigration interview as 'trap'

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN

Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) —

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents impermissibly arrested a Maryland resident after he showed up for an interview with immigration officials, a federal judge said in a ruling that could benefit others fighting deportation orders.

U.S. District Judge George Hazel's decision Thursday extends a previous order that blocked authorities from deporting Wanrong Lin to his native China. Lin's wife and three children are U.S. citizens.

ICE agents put Lin on a commercial flight from New Jersey to Shanghai last November, but Hazel ordered Lin to be returned to the U.S. before the flight arrived in China. The American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland sued on Lin's behalf only minutes before the plane took off.

ICE agents had detained Lin last August after his interview for his application for a "stateside waiver," which allows noncitizens facing deportation to remain in the U.S. while seeking legal status.

Hazel said the government can't use that process "as a trap for unsuspecting applicants." The judge said agents effectively used the interview to lure Lin to his arrest, preventing him from



In this Friday, March 15, 2019 file photo, Hui Fang Dong leave the federal courthouse in Greenbelt, Md., after a hearing on whether Dong's husband, Wanrong Lin, can remain in the U.S. while he seeks to legalize his immigration status.

Associated Press

completing the provisional waiver process.

"Defendants have thus taken a rule that was promulgated for one purpose and used it for the opposite purpose," Hazel wrote.

ACLU of Maryland attorney Nick Steiner said he has shared the decision with other immigrant advocates in case they have clients in a similar predicament.

"Nothing in the decision directly applies beyond Mr. Lin," Steiner said.

But the ruling sends a "pretty strong signal to ICE" that it can't abuse the provi-

sional waiver process in this fashion, the ACLU attorney added.

Justice Department attorneys assigned to the case didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

In statements released by the ACLU of Maryland, Lin and his wife, Hui Fang Dong, said they are happy and relieved that he can stay with his family at their home in California, Maryland, where they own and operate a restaurant.

"I don't know what we would have done if he had

to go back to China," Dong said.

Dong became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 2004, the same year they married. Lin did not, but sought asylum in 2008, a request that was denied and resulted in an order for his deportation. He did not actually leave the country, however, until he was deported in November.

Lin, 38, was 14 years old when he came to the U.S. alone in 1994. Removing him now will keep him separated from his family for years, his lawyers have

said.

The judge wrote, "Mr. Lin would be asked to fend for himself in a country he has not lived in since 2002. He has no family in Shanghai, and it is unclear how he will care for himself."

The preliminary injunction granted by Hazel gives Lin more time to stay in the country while he seeks permanent residence, but it's not the final word in the case.

During a hearing in March, Justice Department attorney Julian Kurz said ICE agents have the discretion to make arrests and enforce deportation orders "in a resource-efficient way." He said Lin's attorneys were asking the court to block an "indisputably valid removal order."

"Removing Lin would not be inconsistent with any statute, regulation or the Constitution," Kurz said.

In 2016, Lin and Dong began applying for the state-side waiver. As part of the process, they went for an interview at a federal immigration office in Baltimore in August to confirm the "bona fides" of their marriage, the ACLU lawyers said. The interviewer told Dong that the validity of their marriage would be confirmed but escorted Lin to a separate room for more questioning. That's when ICE agents arrested him. □



This file photo from Jan. 22, 1991, shows ex-school teacher Carolyn Warmus during trial in Westchester County Court.

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) —

A former New York schoolteacher who was convicted of killing her lover's wife in a sensational case dubbed the Fatal Attraction murder has been granted parole.

Carolyn Warmus will be released from Bedford Hills prison as early as June 10 after a three-member panel of the state Parole Board granted her release. The decision was first reported

## 'Fatal Attraction' killer Carolyn Warmus granted parole

in the Journal News.

Warmus, now 55, was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison in 1992 for the murder of Betty Jeanne Solomon.

Prosecutors said Warmus was having an affair with the victim's husband, fellow teacher Paul Solomon, when she fired nine gunshots at Betty Jeanne Solomon in the victim's home in Greenburgh, New York on Jan. 15, 1989.

Warmus' first trial ended in a hung jury in 1991 with the

jurors deadlocked 8-4 in favor of conviction. She was found guilty of second-degree murder a year later.

A key witness in the trial was New York City private investigator Vincent Parco, who testified that he had sold Warmus a .25-caliber handgun with a silencer days before the killing.

Warmus, the daughter of a wealthy Michigan insurance executive, has always maintained her innocence. She was denied parole when she first became

eligible in 2017.

Mayer Morganroth, an attorney for Warmus, said in an email, "We are indeed pleased that release has been granted." He said Warmus' legal team would be busy putting "the particulars of her future" in place. Paul Solomon declined to comment to the Journal News about Warmus' parole. The case was dubbed the Fatal Attraction killing after the 1987 movie starring Glenn Close and Michael Douglas. □

# Minneapolis to pay \$20M to family of 911 caller slain by cop

By AMY FORLITI

Associated Press

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Minneapolis will pay \$20 million to the family of an unarmed woman shot by a police officer after she called 911 to report a possible crime, city leaders announced Friday — a move that comes just three days after the former officer was convicted of murder.

The settlement reached with the family of Justine Ruszczyk Damond, a dual citizen of the U.S. and Australia, is believed to be the largest stemming from police violence in the state of Minnesota. It's believed that Mohamed Noor is the first Minnesota officer to be convicted of murder for an on-duty shooting.

Asked about the amount and speed of the settlement, Mayor Jacob Frey cited Noor's unprecedented conviction, as well as the officer's failure to identify a threat before he used deadly force.

"This is not a victory for anyone, but rather a way for our city to move forward," he said. "I do believe that we will move forward together, united in the shared belief that such a tragedy should never occur in our city."

Bob Bennett, an attorney for Damond's family in Australia, called the settlement amount "transformational" and said it "serves as a marker for future transgressions."

Damond, a dual citizen of the U.S. and Australia, had called 911 late on the night of July 15, 2017, to summon officers to a possible rape in the alley behind her house. Noor and his partner were driving down the alley in a police SUV when they say they were startled by a

loud bang on the vehicle. Noor testified that he fired to protect them from a perceived threat, after he saw his partner's terrified reaction, and saw a woman appear at the driver's side window, raising her right arm.

Bennett said Noor's own testimony appeared to doom any defense of a civil claim.

"He didn't see a threat," Bennett said.

Jurors on Tuesday found Noor guilty of third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. They deliberated for about 11½ hours after hearing three weeks of testimony.

Damond's family had filed a lawsuit against the city and police leaders seeking more than \$50 million, alleging her civil rights were violated.

The settlement, which will be paid by the city's self-insurance fund, calls for Damond's family to donate \$2 million to a local foundation's fund aimed at addressing gun violence. City leaders commended the family for addressing the broader issue of police violence, particularly affecting communities of color.

The settlement still needs a judge's approval, but Bennett said he anticipates that will happen.

The death of Damond, 40, came a month before she was due to marry. Noor, 33, who had trained to become a police officer in a mid-career switch, was fired after he was charged. He is in custody awaiting sentencing in June. Sentencing guidelines call for as many as 15 years in prison on the murder charge, though judges can depart from the guidelines.

Prosecutors criticized Noor

for shooting without seeing a weapon or Damond's hands. They also questioned whether the loud bang was real. Neither Noor nor his partner, Matthew Harry, mentioned it to investigators at the scene, with Harry first mentioning it three days later in an interview with state investigators. Noor refused to talk to investigators.

Damond's death angered and bewildered citizens in the U.S. and Australia, and led to the resignation of Minneapolis' police chief. It also led the department to change its policy on body cameras.

The fatal shooting and verdict were fraught with the



In this Aug. 11, 2017, file photo, Johanna Morrow plays the didgeridoo during a memorial service for Justine Ruszczyk Damond at Lake Harriet in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

issue of race. Damond was white, and Noor is Somali American, leading some in the community to question whether the case was treated the same as police shootings involving black victims.

Frey said he understands

frustrations of those who feel that they have been denied justice, but said the circumstances of each civil case is different. Bennett said he doesn't believe race played a factor in the size or speed of this settlement. □

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# UK governing party takes Brexit battering in local elections

By JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Britain's dominant political parties took a hammering in local elections as Brexit-weary voters expressed frustration over the country's stalled departure from the European Union, according to updated results Friday. Almost three years after U.K. voters narrowly decided in a referendum to leave the EU, the date and terms of Brexit remain uncertain following months of gridlock in Parliament.

The results from Thursday's local elections in England and Northern Ireland suggested voters blamed the governing Conservative Party and to a lesser extent, the opposition Labour Party for the impasse.

Tallies reported Friday from almost all of the 259 local authorities that had positions up for grabs showed the Conservatives shedding more than 1,200 local council seats, more than one-quarter of the ones it had held.



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May attends the Welsh Conservative party conference at Llangollen, Wales, Friday May 3, 2019.

Associated Press

The left-of-center Labour Party fared less badly than the Tories, but lost around 70 positions after hoping to increase the number of members serving as local councilors.

The Conservatives previ-

ously had members filling about 60 percent of the more than 8,000 seats that were contested. Elections didn't take place in London, Scotland or Wales.

Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May said the elec-

tions as a whole carried a "simple message" for both the Conservative and Labour parties: "Just get on and deliver Brexit."

An audience member at a Conservative conference in Wales had a blunter

message. The party member heckled May, shouting "Why don't you resign? We don't want you."

The Conservatives and Labour are bracing for worse results in the European Parliament elections in three weeks.

Britain was due to have left the EU well before the European vote, but Brexit was postponed until Oct. 31 because May was unable to get lawmakers to approve her divorce deal with the EU. In truth, the message sent by voters was loud but far from clear. With the country still split over leaving the EU, the rejection of both main parties reflected frustration from both pro-Brexit voters and supporters of Britain's EU membership.

"The people that voted to remain blame us for leaving and the people that voted to leave blame us because we haven't left yet," said Conservative politician Tim Warren, who lost his seat on Bath and North East Somerset Council in southwest England. □

# Australian prime minister rejects candidate's Islam posts

By ROD MCGUIRK  
Associated Press

**CANBERRA, Australia (AP)** — Australia's prime minister said his Liberal Party rejected the anti-Muslim views of an election candidate who on Friday became the third to lose the conservative party's endorsement in as many days over their social media histories.

The scandals surrounding candidates have become distractions for Prime Minister Scott Morrison and opposition leader Bill Shorten this week as they attempt to focus voters on policies ahead of the May 18 election. Candidates for both the Liberal Party and the center-left Labor Party opposition quit on Friday over their online pasts.

Morrison had stood by Jessica Whelan, a Liberal candidate for the House of Representatives in Tasmania state, amid accusations on Thursday she made anti-Muslim posts on social media. Morrison said



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, left, and opposition leader Bill Shorten shake hands before the Sky News/Courier Mail People's Forum in Brisbane, May 3, 2019.

Associated Press

screenshots of Whelan's comments appeared to have been doctored and a complaint had been made to police.

But Whelan stepped aside

Friday over further posts published in a newspaper overnight, conceding that she was responsible for some of them.

The Mercury newspaper

in Tasmania reported that a 2017 post called for a national vote on whether Muslims should be allowed into Australia. Another post reportedly argued that ref-

ugees from Syria and Iraq should not be resettled in Tasmania.

Morrison said neither he nor his party accepted her views.

"Her views were her views and they do not represent the views of the party I lead," Morrison told reporters. Another Liberal candidate, Jeremy Hearn, was dumped by the party Wednesday after a series of anti-Muslim comments came to light. The House candidate for Victoria state wrote online in 2016 that taxpayers should not fund Muslim schools because they were "fomenting rebellion against the government."

Also Wednesday, Peter Kilin, who was running for the House in Victoria, resigned from the party after secretly attacking gay government lawmaker Tim Wilson online in December and calling for party members to do more to prevent gays from being elected. □



# European, US investigators make major darknet bust

**BERLIN (AP)** — European and American investigators have broken up one of the world's largest online criminal marketplaces for drugs, hacking tools and financial-theft wares a series of raids in the United States and Germany, authorities said Friday.

Three German men, ages 31, 22 and 29, were arrested after the raids in three southern states on allegations they operated the so-called "Wall Street Market" darknet platform, which hosted some 5,400 sellers and more than 1 million customer accounts, Frankfurt prosecutor Georg Ungefuk told reporters in Wiesbaden.

A Brazilian man, the site's alleged moderator, was also charged.

The three Germans, identified in U.S. court documents as Tibo Lousee, Jonathan Kalla and Klaus-Martin Frost, face drug charges in Germany on allegations they administrated the platform where cocaine, heroin and other drugs, as well as forged documents and other illegal material were sold.

They have also been charged in the United



Pieces of evidence are presented on Friday, May 3, 2019 at a press conference in Wiesbaden, Germany, about European and American investigators breaking up one of the world's largest online criminal trafficking operations.

Associated Press

States with conspiring to launder money and distribute illegal drugs, according to a criminal complaint filed in Los Angeles federal court.

"The charges filed in Germany and the United States will significantly disrupt the illegal sale of drugs on the darknet," Assistant U.S. Attorney Ryan White told reporters in Germany. "We believe that Wall Street

Market recently became the world's largest darknet marketplace for contraband including narcotics, hacking tools, illegal services and stolen financial data."

Ungefuk said Wall Street Market was at least the second biggest, refusing to name others for fear of jeopardizing other investigations.

In the nearly two-year op-

eration involving European police agency Europol and authorities in the Netherlands as well as the U.S. and Germany, investigators pinpointed the three men as administrators of the platform on the darknet. It is part of the internet often used by criminals that is hosted within an encrypted network and accessible only through anonymity-providing tools, such as the

Tor browser.

Transactions were conducted using cryptocurrencies, and the suspects took commissions ranging from 2% to 6%, Ungefuk said.

The site trafficked documents such as identity papers and drivers' licenses but an estimated 60% or more of the business was drug-related, he said.

Authorities swept in quickly after the platform was switched into a "maintenance mode" on April 23, and the suspects allegedly began transferring funds used on the platform to themselves in a so-called "exit scam," Ungefuk said.

The U.S. Department of Justice said the administrators took approximately \$11 million in the exit scam from escrow and user accounts.

The U.S. identified a fourth defendant as Marcos Paulo De Oliveira-Annibale, 29, of Sao Paulo, Brazil. It was not clear if he had been arrested and federal police in Brazil wouldn't comment. Brazilian authorities searched his home Thursday after investigators linked his online persona to pictures he posted of himself years ago, U.S. officials said. □

# Algerians rally for 11th week to remove elite from power

By AOMAR OUALI

**ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)** — Tens of thousands of Algerians rallied for an 11th straight week Friday to maintain pressure on the old guard in government to leave office a month after the country's president of two decades was forced to resign.

Demonstrators waving or wrapped in Algeria's national flag repeated "Everyone must go" and "Gang of thieves, you have ruined the country," among the familiar chants from the weekly protests that started Feb. 22.

Crowds turned out in more than a dozen cities, according to online news site TSA Algeria.

The street protests were triggered by long-time President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's

plan to seek a fifth term in an April election. He withdrew from the race and canceled the vote amid the continued protests.

Bouteflika, 82 and ailing, stepped down April 2 under pressure from Algeria's powerful army chief who sided with the protesters.

The president of the Algerian Senate, Abdelkader Bensalah, took over as interim leader for 90 days under a constitutionally prescribed process. A presidential election has been rescheduled for July 4.

The political opposition and most protesters are opposing the new election date and the process for transferring power, which gives roles to Bensalah and other members of Bouteflika's entourage.

They are demanding elec-

tions on their own terms and a new political system to replace the one that was adopted when Algeria gained independence from France in 1962.

Protesters have expressed mixed opinions about whether army chief Ahmed Gaid Salah fits their vision. He has pressed protesters to follow the constitutional process for installing a new government. Some Algerians support him.

"We have to help Gaid Salah. The political class should answer his call for dialogue to get out of this impasse," Lakhdar Bouregaa, a veteran of the war for independence in his 80s, said.

Other citizens are skeptical Gaid Salah would help give Algeria a clean start or fear a military intervention to re-



A demonstrators waves an Algerian flag during a protest in Algiers, Algeria, Friday, May 3, 2019.

Associated Press

solve the protracted power struggle.

"He's working for the power structure," protester Louisa Yani said. "He's using his (past) role as a fighter to sell us the roadmap of those in power."

It was unclear how Rama-

dan will affect the protests in coming weeks. Muslims abstain from food and drink from sunrise to sunset during Ramadan, slowing the pace of life and closing offices early. Some Algerians said they plan to demonstrate at night. □



# Afghanistan's grand council ends with call for peace talks

By AMIR SHAH

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— An Afghan grand council convened by President Ashraf Ghani ended on Friday with a resounding call for peace with the Taliban and a promise from the president to free 175 Taliban prisoners ahead of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month that starts next week.

The council — known as Loya Jirga — had brought together more than 3,200 participants, politicians, tribal elders, many prominent figures and others to hammer out a shared strategy for future negotiations with the Taliban.

Ghani had sought to project a unified stance with the council but several prominent Afghans boycotted the gathering, including Ghani's partner in the government, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, exposing the deepening rifts in the administration.

"I want to say to the Taliban



Delegates attend the last day of the Afghan Loya Jirga meeting in Kabul, Afghanistan, Friday, May 3, 2019.

Associated Press

that the choice is now in your hands," Ghani said at the closing ceremony in Kabul. "Now it is your turn to show what you want to do."

Ghani said the message of the five-day gathering

was clear: "Afghans want peace."

He also offered a cease-fire but stressed that it would not be unilateral. The proposal is likely moot as the Taliban have so far rejected a cease-fire until U.S.

and NATO troops withdraw from the country.

The Taliban have in recent months stepped-up their attacks, inflicting staggering casualties on Afghan forces, and now hold sway over half the country. The

U.S., meanwhile, has accelerated efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the 17-year war — America's longest conflict.

U.S. special peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, appointed last year, has been crisscrossing the region seeking consensus among Afghanistan's neighbors, as well as Russia and China, on the need for a peace settlement. President Donald Trump has also expressed his frustration with Washington's longtime involvement in Afghanistan, as well as a desire to bring the estimated 14,000 U.S. soldiers home.

The grand council produced a 23-point list for peace-talks with the Taliban, including a truce for Ramadan, when Muslims fast from dawn to dusk.

The Loya Jirga also urged the government to form a strong negotiating team and said at least 50 of its members should represent victims of wars. □

# Syria rebels repel limited attack on enclave despite truce

By SARAH EL DEEB

BEIRUT (AP)

— Syrian rebel fighters repelled an attack by government forces following brief clashes Friday at the southern edge of the last rebel-held enclave in Syria, activists and the insurgents said. It was the first attempted ground operation to violate a shaky seven-month truce.

The clashes came after days of intense government escalation against the rebel enclave in northwestern Syria that included Russian airstrikes and indiscriminate barrel bombs. Russia said its air base in nearby Latakia province came under attack Friday but its forces thwarted the attempt, without elaborating.

The increased fighting has undermined the cease-fire negotiated by Russia and Turkey, in place since September. The agreement has since been weakened by recurrent cycles of violence.

The Britain-based Syr-



This photo provided by the Syrian Civil Defense White Helmets, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, shows smoke rises after Syrian government and Russian airstrikes hit the town of al-Habeet, southern Idlib, Syria, Friday, May 3, 2019.

Associated Press

ian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the war in Syria, described the escalation as the "fiercest" since September. It said fighting during the last four

days had killed at least 38. After a wave of airstrikes, rebel groups and the Observatory said government troops and allied fighters attempted to advance

on the rebel enclave from the Qalaat al-Madiq area in Hama province, clashing with insurgents there. The Observatory said the attempted advance fol-

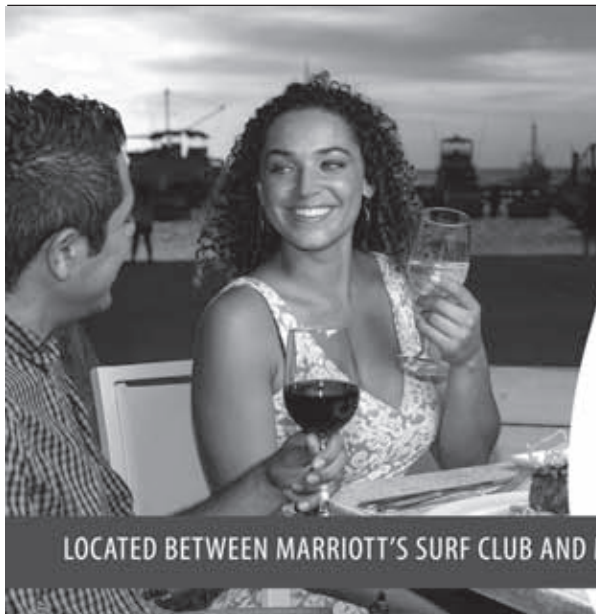
lowed intense airstrikes on the southern edge of Idlib province and northern Hama.

The rebel forces, organized under the name of the National Front for Liberation, said they repelled the advancing government troops and destroyed two vehicles. They also said they had killed government soldiers, a claim that could not be immediately verified.

The activist-operated Shaam news agency said the rebels had killed Syrian soldiers using armed drones.

The head of the Observatory, Rami Abdurrahman, said there had been a buildup of government troops in the area for days. He said the attempted advance appeared designed to expand government control of strategic areas and protect the Russian air base in Latakia. Moscow has previously warned that hostilities in Idlib and the surrounding area threaten the base. □





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## Elaborate pageantry and ritual of Thai king's coronation

Associated Press

**BANGKOK (AP)** — The official coronation of Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn, who is also known as Rama X, involves months of rituals that will culminate in three days of elaborate pageantry, including a parade and an appearance by the monarch on a balcony of the Grand Palace. The final event will be a royal barge procession in October. The last coronation, of Vajiralongkorn's late father King Bhumibol Adulyadej, was on May 5, 1950. Bhumibol died in 2016 at age 88 after reigning for seven decades.



In this Jan. 31, 2018, file photo, a full moon rises behind the Grand Palace in Bangkok, Thailand.  
Associated Press

**PRELIMINARY RITUALS:** Preparations for the royal coronation began in April with the collection and blessings of water from across Thailand to be used in this weekend's ceremonies.

Prayers by monks at the Temple of the Emerald Buddha preceded the inscriptions of royal golden plaques and the Royal Seal

of State, according to a schedule released by the Thai government. The king also has paid his respects to earlier monarchs, Rama

I and Rama V, at statues and memorials in Bangkok, and worshipped "sacred beings" at locations within the palace.

**MAY 4, SATURDAY, CORONATION DAY:** In a royal purification ceremony at the Grand Palace, holy water is poured over the king's head. An anointment ceremony with more consecrated water follows. He then ascends the royal throne and sits beneath the royal 9-tiered umbrella, used only by the king, to receive the royal golden plaque, royal regalia and weapons of sovereignty, among other symbols of the monarchy, from the chief Brahmin — a dignitary whose role reflects the influence of Hinduism on Thai's monarchy.

The king later receives members of the royal family, the Privy Council and Cabinet, among other senior officials, who will pay their respects in the Throne Hall. □

## Vietnam woman tried in NKorean scion's killing leaves prison

**KAJANG, Malaysia (AP)** — The Vietnamese woman who was tried for the killing of the estranged half brother of North Korea's leader was released from a Malaysian prison and was planning to return home later Friday, her lawyer and an embassy translator said. Doan Thi Huong's release likely closes the case, since four North Koreans named as co-conspirators in the 2017 slaying are not in custody. Malaysian officials never officially accused North Korea and made it clear they didn't want the trial politicized.

Vietnamese embassy translator Maridam Yacfar told reporters at the prison that Doan Thi Huong looked "happy" but couldn't give further details.

Huong's lawyer, Hisyam Teh Poh Teik, said Huong went to an immigration office and will fly back to Hanoi later Friday.

Huong, 30, pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of causing injury last month after prosecutors dropped the murder charge against her. She was sentenced to 40 months in prison from the day of her arrest and was released early for good be-

havior.

Huong was the last suspect in custody after the Malaysian attorney general's stunning decision in March to drop the murder case against her co-defendant, Indonesian Siti Aisyah, following high-level lobbying from Jakarta. Huong sought to be acquitted after Aisyah was freed, but prosecutors rejected her request. Aisyah returned home to Indonesia.

The two women were charged with colluding with the four North Koreans to murder Kim Jong Nam with VX nerve agent. □



In this April 1, 2019, file photo, Vietnamese Doan Thi Huong leaves Shah Alam High Court in Shah Alam, Malaysia.

Associated Press



# Anger over corruption widespread ahead of Panama election

By JUAN ZAMORANO

Associated Press

**PANAMA CITY (AP)** — Anger over brazen corruption and weariness over the political status quo are widespread among the Panamanian electorate ahead of Sunday's vote to pick a successor to President Juan Carlos Varela, on whose watch Latin America's fastest growing economy cooled off significantly.

In what has been perhaps the shortest and least colorful campaign since Panama's transition to democracy three decades ago, most election talk has focused on government malfeasance following the massive leak of law firm documents in the Panama Papers and a regionwide scandal involving bribes paid by Brazilian construction firm Odebrecht.

The Odebrecht case "is particularly relevant in Panama in light of the Panama Papers," said Michael Shifter, president of the Washington-based Inter-American Dialogue, alluding to the fact that many of the



Supporters of Panamanian presidential candidate Romulo Roux, holding Democratic Change party banners, attend his closing campaign rally in Panama City, Thursday, May 2, 2019.

Associated Press

shell companies that became public through the leak from a Panamanian law firm were used to funnel bribes from the Brazilian company.

"Corruption becomes an even more important issue in the context of the country's recent sluggish

economic performance," he continued. "Many Panamanians are fed up with the political class and have been disappointed by successive administrations."

That discontent could translate into a return to power for the opposition Revolutionary Democratic Party

for the third time since the fall of Gen. Manuel Noriega in 1989, after it lost the last two presidential elections. A recent poll by La Prensa newspaper gave party standard-bearer Laurentino Cortizo a double-digit edge over his two nearest rivals.

Cortizo, a 66-year-old businessman with a degree in business administration from Norwich University in Vermont, has had to answer questions about corruption like the other candidates as a former Cabinet minister under President Martin Torrijos (2004-2009). It was Torrijos who granted the first multimillion-dollar contract to Odebrecht, though the company's business in Panama grew significantly in the subsequent administrations of Ricardo Martinelli and then Varela. Currently there are calls for investigations to restart and extend to the Torrijos government, but that has not diminished Cortizo's standing in the polls. He vows that nobody will be untouchable in his government if he wins the presidency. "What Odebrecht has done in Latin America and Panama cannot be forgiven," Cortizo said in a recent interview days after the campaign's final televised debate. "Convicted companies, forget about Panama!" □

# Shootout rattles nerves near busy Venezuela border bridge

Associated Press

**BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)** — A shootout near a busy border bridge between Venezuela and Colombia sent droves of people ducking for cover Friday as they crossed in search of food and other items, authorities said.

The incident took place on an illegal dirt road crossing close to the Simon Bolivar International Bridge where thousands of Venezuelans pour into neighboring Colombia each day in search of vital goods.

Colombia Migration Director Christian Kruger said one woman who did not belong to the illegal armed groups behind the shooting was hit by a stray bullet and being treated at a nearby hospital.

"Contraband groups apparently fighting for these routes had a confrontation," he said.

Colombia has turned into a lifeline for thousands of



A woman holding her pet crosses illegally into Colombia near the Simon Bolivar International Bridge in La Parada near Cucuta, Colombia, Wednesday, May 1, 2019, on the border with Venezuela.

Associated Press

Venezuelans who cross each day to migrate or obtain food and medicine. Venezuelan authorities closed the Simon Bolivar International Bridge in Feb-

ruary after the opposition's failed bid to deliver humanitarian aid. Since then, many have been forced to seek a route into Colombia illegally instead.

The dirt pathways known as "trochas" are controlled by illegal armed groups, who charge Venezuelans for passage. Those who cross are frequently harassed,

robbed and sometimes even shot.

Recently, Venezuelan authorities have begun allowing schoolchildren and medical patients to cross into Colombia on the bridge and permitting thousands returning with goods each day back in.

Video shared on social media of the incident shows people lugging heavy bags with supplies and even police officers suddenly crouching down and crying as the loud sound of gunfire pierced the air.

Venezuela is in the throes of a political and economic crisis forcing millions to flee. The United Nations estimates a total of 3.7 million have fled in search of better opportunities abroad, over 10 percent of Venezuela's population.

Colombia migration authorities said Thursday that over 1.2 million now reside in the neighboring Andean nation. □



# Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Future

Zhang Weixin

Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Willemstad



**WILLEMSTAD —** Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed the building of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road in 2013, which is called the Belt and Road initiative (BRI). This initiative draws on the historical wisdom and signs of ancient Silk Road, and is in response to the severe challenges of deficit in peace, development and governance to mankind. It aims to enhance connectivity and pragmatic cooperation, and to deliver win-win outcomes and common development. Over the past more than 5 years, 127 countries and 29 international organizations have signed documents on Belt and Road cooperation with China. BRI has already become the most popular public goods and the largest cooperation platform in the world.

The Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) was successfully held in Beijing during April 25th and 27th. Heads of state and government from 38 countries, United Nations and International Monetary Fund, as well as more than 6000 guests from over 150 countries and 90 international organizations participated in the forum. During 3 days, they discussed how to promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation and enhance pragmatic cooperation to better benefit the people. The forum consisted of leader's roundtable summit, the high-level meeting, 12 thematic forums and the CEO conference, with fruitful outcomes. A total of 283 achievements were reached, including multi-bilateral cooperation agreements and pragmatic cooperation projects. The joint communiqué issued by the summit has demonstrated the extensive consensus and firm determination of participating countries for a brighter future of BRI.

The BRI aims to promote connectivity of policy, infrastructure, trade, finance and people-to-people exchanges and improves people's lives. Since 2013, countries along the Belt and Road have strengthened their development policies synergy with the BRI. Within the cooperation framework, the BRI has brought 6 trillion US dollars trade volume, 80 billion US dollars investment, 82 economic and

trade cooperation zones and 300,000 local jobs. As a result, some developing countries have their first modernized railway; others even have high-speed railways and cross-sea bridges. Land-locked countries have transformed into land-linked ones. 15,000 trains of China-Europe rail service over these years have carried goods, as well as friendship and hope to their destinations, connecting Asia and Europe continents. Data from the World Bank and relevant international institutes indicate that the implement of BRI will reduce global average cost by 1.1%-2.2% and global economic growth increase by 0.1%.

It was also common consensus of the forum that Belt and Road is a road of opportunities towards prosperity, all parties agreed to act in the spirit of multilateralism and strengthen all-round connectivity, enhance the complementarity between the BRI and the development plans of participating countries as well as regional and international development initiatives, to achieve common development through global partnership on connectivity.

Belt and Road is a road of green development and it promotes sustainable development. Participants of the Second BRF agreed China's green proposal, to launch green infrastructure projects, make green investment and provide green financing. China and its partners have set up the BRI International Green Development Coalition, formulated the Green Investment Principles for the Belt and Road Development, implemented the Green Silk Road Envoys Program, and jointly initiated the Belt and Road South-South Cooperation Initiative on Climate Change. All these measures will help protect the Earth which we all call home. Imbalance in development is the greatest imbalance confronting today's world. In the joint pursuit of the BRI, we must see that the vision of sustainable development underpins project selection, implementation and management, so as to create more opportunities for developing countries, and achieve sustainable development. UN secretary-general Mr. Guterres pointed out during the forum, that the world will benefit from the BRI that accelerates efforts to

achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and that the United Nations is poised to support the alignment of the Belt and Road Initiative with the Sustainable Development Goals. Relevant institutional research believes that Belt and Road cooperation plays a positive role in implementing the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reducing poverty. Other outcomes, for instance, the Beijing Initiative for Clean Silk Road, and the Cooperation Initiative on Silk Road of Innovation, have reflected that the BRI complies with the trend of times and people's expectations for a better life. Belt and Road is a road of openness and has extended new practices to improve global governance. The BRI embraces the spirit of ancient Silk Road, which is peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit, and is guided by the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. The initiative originated in China, but it belongs to the world. It is an open and inclusive economic cooperation initiative, not an exclusionary bloc. It pursues partnerships, win-win cooperation and common development. It promotes globalization and building a community with a shared future for mankind. All countries who have interest are welcome to participate the BRI.

The joint communiqué of the round-table summit clearly proposed to pursue trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, to support an open, inclusive and rules-based multilateral trading system, and to establish working regimes including financial supports, investment environment, risk-control and people-to-people exchanges, with high-quality infrastructure construction and industrial cooperation as their core.

China will continue to uphold the "golden principle" of consultation and contribution for shared benefits, champion the concept of open, inclusive and transparent cooperation, and strengthen the synergy of development policies and strategies. We will adhere to people-centered approach, focus on people's livelihood, and enhance the complementarity with UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as we deepen

our cooperation. We support international cooperation in anti-corruption. We will act in the spirit of win-win, focus on improving physical connectivity, and build a stronger momentum for common development and forge an even closer partnership. The Chinese government always encourages Chinese enterprises to conduct foreign investment cooperation in accordance with market principles, international rules and local laws, and by principles of intensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, to make sure that the high-quality requirements are in line with local conditions and better benefit the people as well as local economy and society.

The friendship between China and the Netherlands has a long history. In recent years, high-level exchanges between our two countries have been frequent, and the level of pragmatic cooperation under the Belt and Road framework has been continuously improved. The Netherlands is the second largest trading partner and investment destination of China among European Union countries, and the investment from the Netherlands to China ranks 3rd in EU. There have been several railway lines between our two countries, among which, the Chengdu-Tilburg line has 4 trains running every week. More than 90 passenger and cargo flights each week also connect us. A quarter of the goods in the Port of Rotterdam are from China. We have extensive cooperation in many areas such as smart cities, chip manufacturing, aerospace, water resources, energy, environment protection, health and others. All twelve provinces of the Netherlands have signed sister city agreements with Chinese relevant provinces and cities. Every year, 350,000 Chinese citizens travel to the Netherlands, and about 10,000 Chinese students are studying there. Latin America and Caribbean are the natural extensions of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. Close to 20 countries in the region have signed Belt and Road cooperation documents with China. We welcome Dutch Caribbean actively participate in the BRI, and board on the express trains of Sino-Dutch and Sino-Latin America relationship development. □



## ARUBA MARRIOTT RESORT WINS SALES & REVENUE ELITE AWARDS For top performance within The Caribbean & Latin American Region and The Americas Continent



**PALM BEACH, ARUBA** – The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino has been awarded with two prestigious regional and two continental recognitions; Revenue Management Leader of the Year and Property Sales Team of the Year for the Premium brand category and Caribbean & Latin America region, as well as Property Sales Team of the Year and One Team, Driving Results for the Premium brand category of the continent the Americas.

The Revenue Management Leader of the Year award was presented to Aisling Seberry, Director of Revenue Management, for driving record-breaking results in hotel revenues year over year. Ms. Seberry has been with the Aruba Marriott Resort since 2013 and is in charge of creating solid revenue driven

strategies to optimize total hotel revenues.

The Property Sales Team of the Year award was awarded to the Sales & Marketing and Reservations team, led by Carolina Voullieme, Director of Sales & Marketing, for achieving outstanding hotel sales numbers in weddings, groups, catering and transient segments. Ms. Voullieme has been with the Aruba Marriott since 2013 and is in charge of attaining property sales objectives with the overall responsibility for achieving booking goals and property revenues.

During the Marriott awards gala in Washington DC this week, it was announced that the Sales & Marketing and Reservations team also won the Property Sales Team of the Year award for the entire continent of the Americas. In addition, the entire team of Sales & Marketing, Reservations and Revenue won the "One Team", Driving Results award, also for the continent of the Americas.

The ELITE Awards celebrate leaders and teams from Brand + Marketing, Digital + Loyalty and Public Relations, Global Sales, Revenue Management and Sales. Award winners are selected based upon their leadership skills, outstanding revenue results, superior customer service, and community involvement. This award program is one of the ways Marriott celebrates its top leaders and teams, which is part of Marriott's most important and enduring principle set forth by the



company's founder J. Willard Marriott, "if you take care of your associates, they will take care of the customer".

### About Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 414 guestrooms -- the most spacious on the island -- each with large, private balconies overlooking lush landscape and the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, nine restaurants and cafes provide fare

from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool, the H2Oasis adults-only pool and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions. To obtain more information call the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino at 1.800.228.9290 or visit [www.arubamarriott.com](http://www.arubamarriott.com).

Connect with the Aruba Marriott's official Facebook fan page by visiting [www.facebook.com/ArubaMarriott](http://www.facebook.com/ArubaMarriott) and follow on Twitter @ArubaMarriott. □

## The National Library of Aruba presents the ACURIL conference



**ORANJESTAD** — Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries (ACURIL) will be holding its 49th conference in Aruba from June 2nd until June 6th 2019. The conference will focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) which serves as a framework of the United Nations 2030

**agenda. Theme of the conference is: 'Access and opportunity for all: Caribbean Libraries, Archives and Museums supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals'.**

The National Library of Aruba has the honor to host and organize this conference that will take place at the Renaissance Aruba Convention Center. There will presentations of 3 key-note speakers, Maaïke Toonen (Koninklijke Bibliotheek), Arno Boersma (Center of Excellency) and dr. Cees Hamelink. There will be also workshops and exhibitions by different providers of libraries systems and information centers.

### Other topics are:

1. Information services aimed at poverty alleviation and food security
2. Promote literacy and lifelong learning

3. Libraries and sustainability
4. Libraries contributing to peaceful and just societies
5. Integrated strategies to achieve multiple SDGs

The Local Organizing Committee of Aruba would like to extend an invitation to the entire community of Aruba to take part to the ACURIL Conference. To register please send an email to [acuril2019.participants@gmail.com](mailto:acuril2019.participants@gmail.com)

Local artist Ryan Oduber created the logo for this conference. "The conch has a nurturing reference but is also still a means of communication through local and regional music. The "sound colors" are from the Sustainable Development Goals International logo and represents that we all are part of the problem, but most importantly: the solution", says Oduber. □



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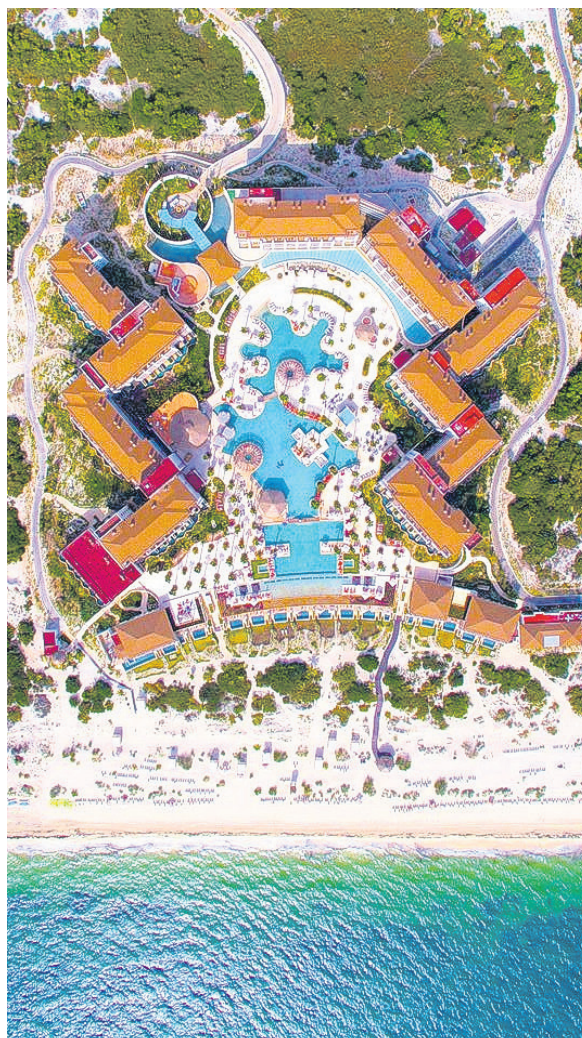
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## The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors on the island



ORANJESTAD — Recently, Jonathan Boekhoudt of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitor and Goodwill Ambassador. The Distinguished visitor certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

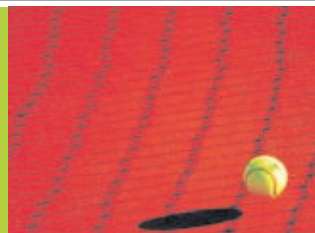
The honorees were **Michael and Victoria Wilson** together with **Tyson and Laura Cormier** all honored as distinguished visitors of Aruba. The goodwill Ambassador certificate went to Paul and Sharon Jusko.

These lovely people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches, delicious variety of foods, safety, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Mr. Boekhoudt together with the representatives of the Bucuti and Tara Beach Resort presented the certificates to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □



# SPORTS



South Africa's Caster Semenya crosses the line to win the gold in the women's 800-meter final during the Diamond League in Doha, Qatar, Friday, May 3, 2019.

Associated Press

## 'Hell no:' Defiant Semenya wins, says she won't take drugs

By **GERALD IMRAY**  
AP Sports Writer

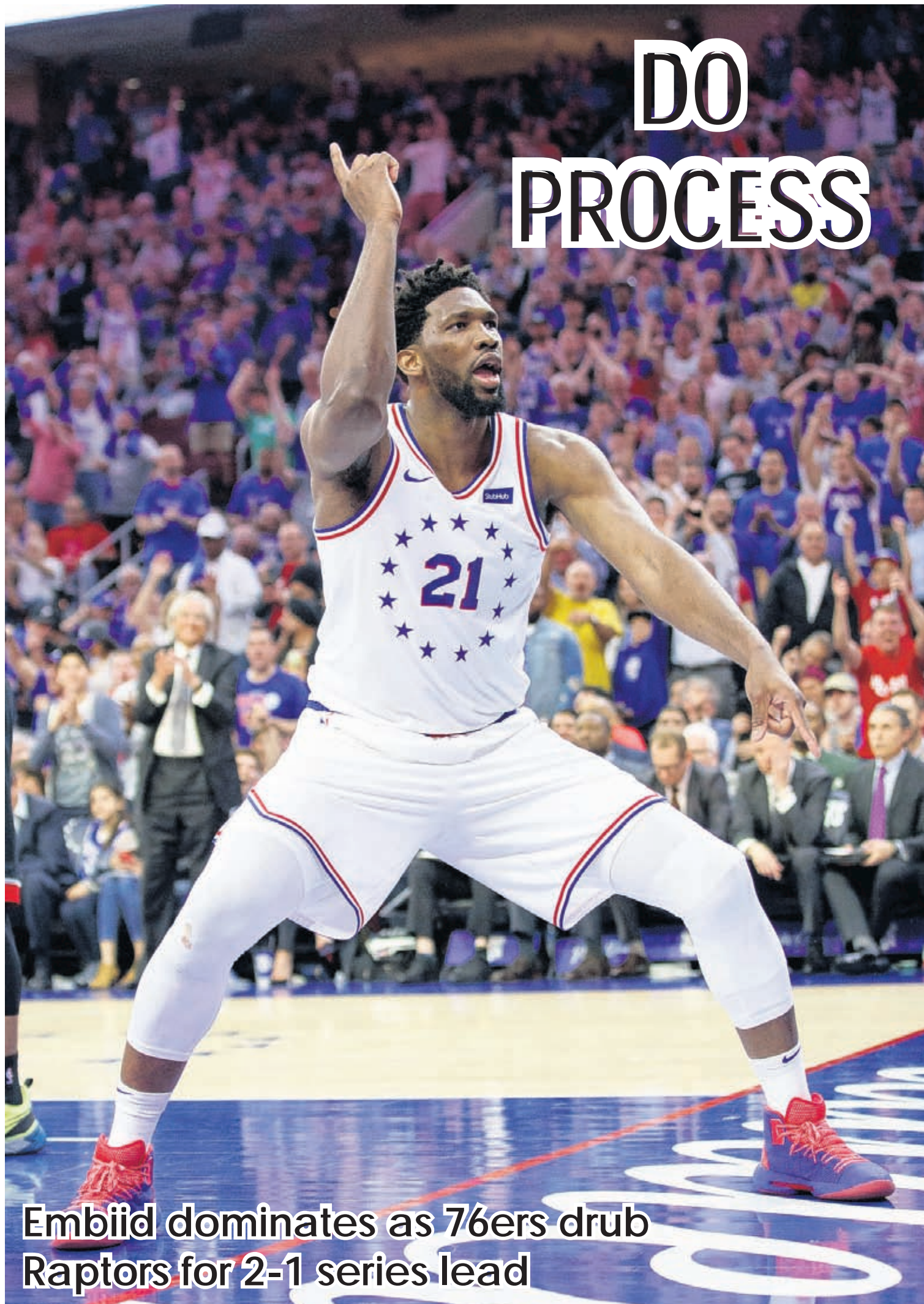
Caster Semenya was defiant in every way at what very well could be her last 800 meter race.

Her raised fist at the start. Her unstoppable victory. And with her reply Friday to the big question of whether she will now submit to new testosterone regulations in track and field and take hormone-reducing medication.

"Hell no," the Olympic champion from South Africa said.

Semenya responded to her defeat in a landmark court case against track and field's governing body two days earlier with a resounding win in a place where she's done nothing but win the last four years — over two laps of the track.

Continued on Page 23



## DO PROCESS

## Embiid dominates as 76ers drub Raptors for 2-1 series lead

Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid reacts to his dunk during the second half of Game 3 of the team's second-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Toronto Raptors, Thursday, May 2, 2019, in Philadelphia. The 76ers won 116-95.

Associated Press  
Page 20



# Jason Dufner takes Wells Fargo lead with a 63

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)

— Jason Dufner's game was going nowhere, so he changed everything from his swing coach to his equipment to his caddie. It didn't get any better.

He at least is starting to see signs of it coming together with an 8-under 63 on Friday in the Wells Fargo Championship, matching his career-low score on the PGA Tour and giving him a one-shot lead going into the weekend at Quail Hollow.

Dufner considers it the best two rounds he has put together since the 2017 Memorial, which also is the last time he had a 36-hole lead. "See how it goes being in the heat of it on Saturday and Sunday," Dufner said. "I've been there before. It's been a while, but I kind of know what to expect. It will be a good challenge to see where I'm at, what I'm doing."

Dufner was at 11-under 131. Joel Dahmen made his first bogey of the week on his final hole of the second round — from the middle of the fairway, no less — but still had a 66 and was one-shot behind. So was Max Homa, who also knows about coping with bad results when he missed the cut in 14 out of 17 events in 2017. He birdied his last two holes for a 63.

The weekend at the Wells Fargo Championship will not feature Phil Mickelson for the first time since he started playing it in 2004. Mickelson shot 41 on the front nine and wound up with a 76 to miss the cut by four shots.

Rory McIlroy was stride for stride with Dufner until he dropped three shots over the last two holes. McIlroy made double bogey with



Jason Dufner watches his tee shot on the 16th hole during the second round of the Wells Fargo Championship golf tournament at Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte, N.C., Friday, May 3, 2019.

Associated Press

a fat shot out of a bunker and a pitch too strong over the green at No. 8, and then went over the green on No. 9 for a bogey and a 70.

Even so, he was five behind and in the mix for a third title at Quail Hollow. He was at 6-under 136 along with Patrick Reed, who had a 69 as he goes for his first top 10 of the year. Defending champion Jason Day (69) was six behind.

"I stood up here last night talking about that I got the most out of it yesterday, and today it was the complete opposite. I turned a 66 into a 70," McIlroy said.

"Golf, it's a funny game and these things happen."

Dufner didn't find too much funny about last year, when his world ranking fell from No. 41 to No. 124 and he missed the cut 11 times. That's when he decided to make changes to just about everything.

"This is my fourth caddie of the year so far," he said. "I left Chuck Cook, started doing some other things. I started working with Phil Kenyon. I think I'm on my fourth or fifth putter this year. I'm on my fourth or fifth driver, my fourth or fifth golf ball, fourth or fifth lob wedge. I'm trying to find

stuff that's going to work."

It worked on Friday at Quail Hollow.

He started his round by missing the green 35 yards to the left and holing the chip over the bunker. He made a 20-foot eagle. He missed a 3-foot par putt. He drove the green on the par-4 14th for another birdie. And he capped it all off with a 40-foot birdie putt on the peninsula green at the par-3 17th.

It was the first time he shot 63 since Oak Hill in 2013, the year he won the PGA Championship.

"I'm just getting to that point where I'm kind of

settled with everything," he said. "Sometimes you make a change and it happens immediately. For me, that wasn't the case. But kind of getting past all those changes and settling into playing some better golf instead of coming to tournaments wondering how I might play or how it might go or is this going to be the right change. Getting to where I feel more comfortable with that and I can just go out play free and play some good golf."

Dufner turned 42 in March and realizes he doesn't have many years left to compete at a high level.

"I'm not really trying to be mediocre," he said. "I'm searching for things that are going to make me a better player."

Homa always had the talent, winning the NCAA title at Cal with a three-shot victory over Jon Rahm. He just fell into the trap of thinking he had to be even better when he got to the PGA Tour, and he's had a rough go of it. But when he's driving it well, it frees up the rest of his game.

He also went back to longtime friend Joe Greiner, who caddied for him his first year on tour until leaving for another friend, Kevin Chappell.

"Joe stayed with me until it became financially irresponsible for him to work for me," Homa said.

Chappell had back surgery and is out until the fall, and Homa brought him back.

"My attitude is awesome nowadays," he said. "I don't really get too down on myself. I have an awesome, awesome caddie that doesn't let me. If I'm quiet, he yells at me and tells me quiet golfers are usually very mean to themselves, so we have a good thing going." □

## Trump to present Medal of Freedom to Tiger Woods next week

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will present the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Tiger Woods next week.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders says an

awards ceremony will be held in the Rose Garden on Monday.

Woods overcame personal and professional adversity to win his fifth Masters title last month. Trump tweeted

after the tournament that he had congratulated Woods and informed him that he would be receiving the medal because of his "incredible Success & Comeback in Sports (Golf)

and, more importantly, LIFE."

It's the nation's highest honor for a civilian and presidents have wide discretion over whom to award it.

Trump is an avid golfer

who played with Woods at Trump's golf club in Jupiter, Florida, in February. Trump also watched the Masters from his Virginia golf club. □



# Singing in the rain? Baffert eyes history, wet Derby on tap

By BETH HARRIS  
AP Racing Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Bob Baffert times three. In a Kentucky Derby lacking a dominant favorite, the two-time Triple Crown-winning trainer saddles the top three choices.

On what could be a wet day at Churchill Downs, Game Winner is the pre-race favorite, albeit a tepid one at 9-2. Improbable and Roadster were installed as the co-second choices at 5-1.

"Last year we came in here with Justify and we knew it was my race to lose," Baffert said.

The 19-horse field for the 145th Derby on Saturday reflects the prep season leading to the opening leg of the Triple Crown: no one horse commanded the attention.

"There are a lot of good horses in here," Baffert said. "They're a pretty evenly matched group."

The picture got scrambled again when initial favorite Omaha Beach was scratched because of a breathing problem, dealing a devastating blow to 68-year-old trainer Richard Mandella, whose Hall of Fame resume lacks only a Derby victory.

That prompted the early odds to be redone. The race also lost 30-1 shot Haikal after the colt was scratched with an infected left front foot.

"This is a crazy game and anything can happen," said Bret Calhoun, who trains By My Standards. "We just have to hold our breaths until we get there." War of Will benefited slightly from Haikal's scratch. He won't have to start in the No. 1 post, which will be left vacant. The field will break from posts 2 through 20.

A win by any of Baffert's trio would tie him with Ben Jones for the most Derby victories with six. He would become the first trainer to win the race in consecutive years twice. His last back-to-back winners were in 1997 and '98.

Baffert won last year's Derby — the rainiest on record — with Justify. Saturday's forecast calls for a 90 percent chance of rain and a high of 66 degrees (18 Celsius).

It sure looks like anybody's soggy race this time.

"It's whoever gets the trip," Baffert said of the 1 ¼-mile journey. "Especially now that it's going to rain, we don't know what is going to happen. It's too bad the weather is not going to work with us."

Game Winner finished second to Roadster in the Santa Anita Derby. Roadster's only loss in four career starts was to Game Winner. Improbable went 3-0

last year, including a win on the Churchill Downs dirt, and finished second in this year's Arkansas Derby. A victory by any of the four California-based horses would surely boost the struggling industry in the state, where a spate of 23 horse deaths over three months at Santa Anita triggered a raft of medication and safety rules changes that are affecting the rest of the sport.

Every horse in the Derby, except Japan-bred Master Fencer, will run on Lasix, the anti-bleeding medication allowed on race day in the U.S. Churchill Downs and the other Triple Crown tracks announced recently



Horses come off the track after an early-morning workout at Churchill Downs Friday, May 3, 2019, in Louisville, Ky. The 145th running of the Kentucky Derby is scheduled for Saturday, May 4. Associated Press

the drug will be banned starting in 2021.

Game Winner's breeding suggests a sloppy track would appeal to him, although he's never raced on one. Neither has Code

of Honor, Roadster, Tax and Vekoma.

Horses that are 1-for-1 on off-tracks are: Master Fencer, Maximum Security, Spinoff, Tacitus and War of Will. □



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San Jose Sharks goaltender Martin Jones, left, covers the puck after stopping a shot by Colorado Avalanche center Nathan MacKinnon during the third period of Game 4 of an NHL hockey second-round playoff series Thursday, May 2, 2019, in Denver. The Avalanche won 3-0.

Associated Press

## Avalanche blank Sharks, Bruins top Blue Jackets

By The Associated Press

**DENVER (AP)** — Nathan MacKinnon kept up his scoring spree with a second-period goal, Philipp Grubauer stopped 32 shots for his first career playoff shutout and the Colorado Avalanche beat the San Jose Sharks 3-0 Thursday night to tie the Western Conference semifinal series at two games apiece.

MacKinnon has at least a point in eight straight games. It's the longest streak by an Avalanche player in the postseason since Peter Forsberg had a point in eight straight in 2002.

Colin Wilson gave Colorado a two-goal cushion with a power-play goal early in the third period. Wilson's score was set up by a no-look, between-the-legs pass from Mikko Rantanen, who registered two assists. Erik Johnson added an empty-netter with 1:09 remaining.

Game 5 is Saturday in San Jose.

**BRUINS 4, BLUE JACKETS 1**

**COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)** — Tuukka Rask stopped 39

shots and the Boston Bruins got some much-needed production from their top-liners in a win over the Blue Jackets that evened their Eastern Conference semifinal series at two games apiece.

Patrice Bergeron had two goals, David Pastrnak had a goal and an assist and Sean Kuraly also tallied for the Bruins, who had lost the last two games in the best of-seven series but knotted the set again as it moves back to Boston for Game 5 on Saturday.

Artemi Panarin scored for Columbus on a controversial play, and Sergei Bobrovsky, who has been spectacular in the postseason so far, had 41 saves but was beaten on long shots by Pastrnak and Bergeron in the first period.

Brad Marchand picked up an assist on Bergeron's goal but also committed three penalties, one leading to an unsuccessful Blue Jackets penalty shot in the first period. Marchand and Bergeron had been kept off the score sheet in the first three games. □



Canelo Alvarez, left, and Daniel Jacobs pose for photographers at a news conference for their middleweight title boxing match Wednesday, May 1, 2019, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

## Big contract in hand, Canelo Alvarez looks for a big win

By TIM DAHLBERG

AP Boxing Writer

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Canelo Alvarez owns both big Mexican holiday weekends in this gambling town, along with a contract that could make him one of the richest athletes in the world. He'll own everything at 160 pounds, too, if he can get past Daniel Jacobs in an intriguing middleweight title unification fight Saturday night.

Just another big fight for Alvarez, who doesn't like to back away from a good challenge.

"Every single one of my fights is important," Alvarez said this week. "Every single fight marks history for me. He (Jacobs) is the second best middleweight in the world, so it's another step in that direction, to keep writing my history."

What would ordinarily be a big pay-per-view fight on Cinco de Mayo weekend on the Las Vegas Strip will be an experiment in the possible new future of boxing as Alvarez meets Jacobs in a fight that will be streamed on DAZN. Fans who would ordinarily pay \$70 or \$80 for the bout can get it by signing up for either a monthly or annual plan on the new pay service.

The delivery may be a work in progress, but Alvarez isn't. He's been beaten only once, by Floyd Mayweather Jr. who Alvarez took on at the age of 23 and clearly wasn't ready. After dominating everyone else at 147 pounds, Alvarez moved up to middleweight, where he went the distance with the fearsome Gennady Golovkin and emerged with a draw and a narrow decision win.

Just for good measure, Alvarez fought at 168 pounds his last time out, when he stopped an outclassed Rocky Fielding to win a piece of the super middleweight title, too.

"My focus is fighting the best fights," Alvarez said.

The scheduled 12-rounder with Jacobs figures to qualify, with Alvarez trying to add the piece of middleweight title Jacobs holds to his three other titles. Other than a third fight with Triple G it's the best middleweight fight out there, with Jacobs bringing plenty of credentials of his own into the ring. Among them is a narrow loss to Golovkin in 2017 in a fight that could have easily gone the other way.

"I'm a big force," Jacobs said. "I'm a big guy with skills, speed and ring IQ." Oddsmakers don't think

that will be enough to take the titles from Alvarez, who is a 4-1 favorite in this city's legal sports books. But Jacobs has already beaten the odds by beating cancer in 2011, and understands that at the age of 32 this will almost surely be his best chance at cashing in at the top.

"This is the greatest opportunity I could ever have, much less dream about," Jacobs said. "So I'm looking forward to taking advantage of it."

To do that, the Brooklyn, New York, native must solve the puzzle that is Alvarez, the red-headed Mexican who is wildly popular in his home country. And that's not an easy task, considering Alvarez is the only fighter to beat Golovkin and at the age of 28 has already won 51 times as a pro. A classic boxer-puncher, Alvarez showed he's a thinker, too, when he switched to a more aggressive style to beat Golovkin in their second fight in September. Alvarez has beaten 14 world champions in his career, though he says there are things he sees in Jacobs that are unique to his fellow champion. "He's got one of the most complicated, most complete styles in boxing," Alvarez said. □





# Joel Embiid, 76ers rout Raptors to take 2-1 series lead

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Joel Embiid had knocked the air out of Toronto by the time he punctuated a Game 3 victory with a wind-mill dunk. Embiid sprinted down the court with his arms stretched out like airplane wings, and the Philadelphia 76ers flying high in the postseason.

Embiid refused to get tripped up back in Philly, scoring 33 points and playing to the "MVP!" chants to lead the Sixers to a 116-95 victory over Toronto Raptors on Thursday night. Philadelphia took a 2-1 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinal series.

"When I have fun, my game just changes," Embiid said. "I'm always told if I don't smile during the game it means I'm having a bad game or I'm not into it. I know to get my game going, I've got to have fun on the court."

Embiid also had 10 rebounds, shaking off a pair of passive games and became the driving force on offense the Sixers needed as they chase their first NBA championship since 1983. He made the game his own in the third quarter and helped the Sixers put away a Raptors team badly over-matched outside of Kawhi Leonard.

Embiid struck a chord when he buried a 3 in the third that stretched Philadelphia's lead to 12. That was start of a string of plays that got Toronto's attention. Embiid chased a loose ball and was tripped when Pascal Siakam intentionally



Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid goes up for the dunk as Toronto Raptors' Kyle Lowry watches during the second half of Game 3 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series Thursday, May 2, 2019, in Philadelphia. The 76ers won 116-95.

Associated Press

stuck out his right leg and sent Philly's All-Star tumbling to the court. The crowd went wild and Siakam was hit with a flagrant foul. Embiid made both free throws as fans — including some of Philadelphia's biggest sports stars — serenaded him with chants of "MVP! MVP!"

Jimmy Butler, the Game 2 standout, dunked off his own steal and the Sixers had quickly put the game out of reach. Butler had 22 points.

Embiid scored another layup and waved his arms and pointed with a smile as wide as the hoop. Embiid

went 9 of 18 from the floor and made 12 of 13 free throws.

It was moments like this why the 76ers endured the painful Process — the years of tanking seasons for high draft picks, like in 2014 when they drafted Embiid with the No. 3 overall pick. Hall of Famer Allen Iverson and rapper Meek Mill engaged in a lengthy embrace from the courtside seats as the Sixers moved two wins away from their Eastern Conference final appearance since 2001.

The Sixers just had to survive Leonard.

Leonard toyed with Ben

Simmons in the third to lead Toronto's charge back into the game. The Raptors ran Simmons through screens to give Leonard the space he needed to create and bury open jumpers. And when there was no space, Leonard simply bullied his way to the basket. He shoved a right elbow into James Ennis III and spun around him for a two-handed jam. Leonard made all six baskets and scored 14 points in the quarter to cut the deficit to eight points. Kyle Lowry and Danny Green offered little help (20 combined points) and Leonard couldn't carry the Raptors

on his own.

"They did a great job scoring. We didn't," Leonard said.

Leonard scored 33 points, and Siakam added 20.

"I think we got outplayed in just about every area we can get outplayed," Raptors coach Nick Nurse said. "It's been a while since we've seen this team play that way."

The Sixers split the two games in Toronto after a losing streak in the Canadian city that dated to 2012. They returned home to a delirious crowd amped for one of the most crucial games of the Process era.

Embiid wore a black Process hoodie to the post-game press conference.

"We've got a lot more to give and do something special," Embiid said.

Embiid, who missed a game against New Jersey in the last series with a sore left knee, averaged only 14 points and shot 28 percent (7 of 25) from the floor in the first two games and was tied up by Marc Gasol in frustrating fashion. Not in Game 3. Embiid buried a 3 and followed with a sweet spin move on Gasol the next time down that got the Sixers rolling. The franchise center's sweetest play came when he blocked Leonard's layup in the lane, hustled back and got the ball in his hands, and connected with Tobias Harris in the corner for a 3. Embiid scored 18 points in the half and pushed the Sixers to a 64-53 lead at the break. □

## SailGP makes U.S. debut on San Francisco Bay in F50 catamarans

By **BERNIE WILSON**  
AP Sports Writer

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — The fledgling SailGP global league makes its U.S. debut this weekend on San Francisco Bay, where the young American team, which includes two aspiring Olympians from Southern California, hopes to move up in the standings while the veteran Australian crew looks to stay atop the leaderboard.

Racing in fast, foiling 50-foot

catamarans known as F50s will be Saturday and Sunday on a course between the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz Island. If racing is anything like practice sessions, it could be a wild weekend.

A few days after the Australians almost became the first of the six SailGP crews to hit 50 knots (57.5 mph), they almost capsized. The same day, the Chinese boat nose-dived into the waves and its wingsail buckled.

"That was a close call," Aussie skipper and helmsman Tom Slingsby said about going into a "death angle" before recovering. "We were very fortunate we didn't capsize. Otherwise the boat would be in the shed and we'd be racing to have it ready in time. Fortunately now we're in final preparation mode. The worklist is a lot less than it could have been."

Slingsby, an Olympic gold medalist who helped Or-

acle Team USA win the America's Cup on San Francisco Bay in 2013, said he thinks one of the teams will break 50 knots, if there's the right combination of wind and flat water.

"We sort of had a crack at it that one day. We got very close, and now we've shifted our focus away from that and basically want to do well in overall results."

Slingsby led the Aussies to victory over Japan in the final of the inaugural regatta

in Sydney in mid-February. Great Britain, China, France and the United States rounded out the standings. "I love being in San Francisco," said Riley Gibbs, who controls the wingsail for the U.S. team. "It's one of the most challenging places in the world to sail with sort of a natural arena and currents that are so strong and intense. Obviously it's pretty cold up here and the breeze can pipe up and be pretty brutal at times." □



# Syndergaard does it all in Mets' 1-0 win over Reds

**By The Associated Press**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — Noah Syndergaard became the first pitcher in 36 years to homer and throw a shut-out in a 1-0 victory, lifting the New York Mets over the Cincinnati Reds on Thursday. Syndergaard (2-3) struck out 10 and allowed four hits in his third career complete game, shaking off a sloppy start to the season with a do-it-all effort. He became the first Mets starter to get an out in the eighth this season, and the franchise's first starter ever to go yard in a 1-0 complete-game win.

Thor did his hammering in the third inning, driving a ball 407 feet to the opposite field in left-center off Tyler Mahle (0-4).

The previous pitcher to homer in a 1-0 complete-game win was the Los Angeles Dodgers' Bob Welch against the Reds on June 17, 1983, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

**NATIONALS 2, CARDINALS 1**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Stephen Strasburg reached



New York Mets starting pitcher Noah Syndergaard throws a pitch to Cincinnati Reds' Eugenio Suarez during the first inning of a baseball game, Thursday, May 2, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

1,500 strikeouts in fewer innings than any pitcher in major league history, and Washington beat St. Louis after a long rain delay to salvage the finale of a four-game series.

Despite the strong performance by Strasburg, the Nationals (13-17) fired

pitching coach Derek Lilliquist after the game and replaced him with minor league pitching coordinator Paul Menhart. General manager Mike Rizzo made the announcement moments after the final out.

Strasburg (3-1) lasted 6 2/3 innings, giving up a run and

six hits with two walks and nine strikeouts. He got opposing starter Dakota Hudson looking in the fifth for his eighth strikeout of the game and the 1,500th of his career — in 1,272 1/3 innings.

According to the Elias Sports Bureau, Boston left-hander Chris Sale held the previous mark, reaching 1,500 in 2017 after 1,290 innings.

Sean Doolittle struck out pinch-hitter Paul Goldschmidt with the bases loaded to end the eighth, then finished for his fourth save.

Hudson (2-2) allowed two runs, one earned, and four hits in six innings. Kolten Wong hit an RBI single and Yairo Munoz had three hits for St. Louis, which had won five straight.

**ROCKIES 11, BREWERS 6**

**MILWAUKEE (AP)** — Nolan Arenado, David Dahl and Raimel Tapia homered to help Colorado earn a four-game split with Milwaukee. Arenado had three hits, including his ninth home run this season. Dahl finished a

triple short of the cycle for the Rockies, who outscored the Brewers 22-10 in the final two games of the series. Jon Gray (3-3) allowed seven runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings with nine strikeouts.

Freddy Peralta (1-1) fell behind 7-0 by the second inning and gave up nine runs — six earned — eight hits and three walks in four innings.

**PADRES 11, BRAVES 2**

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Ian Kinsler and Wil Myers homered, Matt Strahm worked six innings and San Diego routed Atlanta to earn a split of a four-game series.

The Padres broke the game open with a five-run fifth, helped by an errant throw from Atlanta pitcher Mike Foltynewicz (0-1) that allowed four unearned runs to score. San Diego added five runs in the sixth — the first time since 2000 they have scored five runs in consecutive innings.

Strahm (1-2) took a shutout into the sixth before allowing a two-run single to Nick Markakis. □

# Berrios, Castro carry AL-leading Twins past Astros 8-2

**By The Associated Press**  
**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Jose Berrios won his fourth straight start, Jason Castro homered off former battery mate Brad Peacock and drove in four runs, and AL-leading Minnesota beat Houston.

Backed by a six-run fourth from the Twins against Peacock (2-2), Berrios (5-1) finished seven smooth innings with seven hits and two runs allowed to push the Twins to their first season series victory over the Astros since 2013.

With 52 home runs in 29 games, the Twins have powered their way to or near the top of the league in several hitting categories.

**WHITE SOX 6, RED SOX 4**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Nicky Delmonico hit a three-run homer with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift Chicago over Boston. It was Chicago's second straight walk-off win. Yon-

der Alonso had a two-run single in the nightcap of Wednesday's doubleheader against Baltimore for a 7-6 victory.

James McCann hit a two-run homer for the White Sox, who have won five of six.

Andrew Benintendi homered, J.D. Martinez had three hits and Rafael Devers drove in two runs as the Red Sox had their three-game winning streak snapped.

Chicago's rally in the ninth began with a one-out error by Devers on a grounder to third by José Rondón. Alonso followed with a single to put runners at the corners. Delmonico, who entered as a pinch hitter in the seventh, connected off Ryan Brasier (1-1) to win it. Carson Fulmer (1-1) got two outs for the victory.

**RAYS 3, ROYALS 1**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)** — Brandon Lowe hit a two-run homer off Willy Peralta with



Minnesota Twins' Jason Castro runs the bases on a solo home run off Houston Astros pitcher Brad Peacock in the third inning of a baseball game Thursday, May 2, 2019, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

two outs in the ninth inning, and Tampa Bay split a four-game series with Kansas City.

Peralta (2-2) walked Daniel Robertson on four pitches leading off the ninth, and Lowe connected with two outs for his seventh home run this season.

Adam Kolarek (2-1) got the final two outs of the

eighth, and Diego Castillo struck out two in a perfect ninth for his fourth save in as many chances.

**ANGELS 6, BLUE JAYS 2**

**ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)** — Mike Trout and Kole Calhoun homered, Tyler Skaggs pitched four-hit ball into the seventh inning and Los Angeles completed a three-game sweep of To-

ronto.

Albert Pujols had two doubles for the Angels, who have won six of seven after losing nine of 10. They swept Toronto at Angel Stadium for the first time since April 2002.

Randal Grichuk had an RBI double for the Blue Jays, who had won nine of 12 before getting swept by the Angels for the first time anywhere since September 2013.

Calhoun hit a two-run shot in the second inning and Trout added a solo homer in the sixth. Trout has back-to-back multihit games for the first time since April 4-5. Brian Goodwin had three hits in the final home game for two weeks for the Angels.

Aaron Sanchez (3-2) gave up nine hits and two walks in four innings for Toronto, taking his first loss in five starts.

Skaggs (3-2) didn't allow a hit until the fifth. □



# 'Political chaos' envelops tennis as French Open approaches

By HOWARD FENDRICH  
AP Tennis Writer

Tennis is in turmoil as the French Open approaches. As three-time major champion Stan Wawrinka put it: "Politics have overshadowed the action on the courts."

In a letter published Friday in The Times of London, Wawrinka decried his sport's "worrying decline in moral standards" and outlined several aspects of the ongoing drama enveloping the men's tour — and causing more of a racket than the rackets themselves.

"I feel compelled to express my views on this regrettable period in our sport," said Wawrinka, who once was ranked as high as No. 3 and is currently 33rd after a series of injuries. "This episode has left many players, myself included, concerned about the direction tennis is heading in."

There certainly has been a lot going on behind the scenes with regard to who runs the men's professional tour, and lately it's been spilling into public view.

The conversation is sure to continue until a key vote for the ATP board of directors takes place May 14 in Rome — and through the next Grand Slam tournament, which begins at Roland Garros on May 26.

Wawrinka slammed the representatives on the board and the player council, saying the problem is not with the governing structure but the caliber of the people in positions of importance.

Wawrinka's letter mentions "political chaos" and the "numerous conflicts of interest" that plague tennis. It also prominently discusses a topic about which he already had been outspoken: Justin Gimelstob, the ex-player, coach and TV commentator who resigned from the tour board this week after pleading no contest to misdemeanor assault for attacking a former friend.

While Gimelstob's case still was pending, he was allowed to remain in his powerful ATP post.

The 42-year-old American



In this Feb. 17, 2019 file photo, Stan Wawrinka, of Switzerland, clenches his fist after scoring a point against Gael Monfils, of France, in the men's singles final of the ABN AMRO world tennis tournament at Ahoy Arena in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

was sentenced April 22 to three years of probation, 60 days of community service and a year's worth of anger management classes for what prosecutors said was Gimelstob's attack of Randall Kaplan as they trick-or-treated with their kids in Los

Angeles on Halloween in 2017.

In a statement to the court, Kaplan said Gimelstob struck him multiple times and threatened to kill him. "There is no place in our sport for those who behave like Justin. The lack

of responses from people involved in the game, particularly at the beginning of this saga, when he was charged last December, was alarming," Wawrinka wrote. "This is a situation where silence amounts to complicity." □

## SEMENYA

Continued from Page 17

She won the 800 meters at the opening Diamond League meeting of the season in Doha, Qatar, with a meet record of 1 minute, 54.98 seconds. It was her fourth-fastest time ever. The only person ahead of her at any time during the race was the pacemaker. Semenya's nearest challenger, the Olympic silver medalist Francine Niyonsaba, was nearly three seconds and about 20 meters behind her — barely in the picture. Ajee Wilson of the United States was third.

It was Semenya's first 800 meter race this year and first since losing her case against the IAAF this week. "Actions speak louder than words," Semenya told the BBC. "When you are a great champion, you always deliver."

But Semenya's four-year dominance over two laps — Friday's win was her 30th straight in the 800 continuing a run that started in late 2015 — may now be

at an end.

Ended not by another competitor, but by new regulations set to come into effect Wednesday. They require the South African star and other female athletes with high levels of natural testosterone to medically lower them to be eligible to compete in events ranging from 400 meters to the mile.

Semenya failed to overturn those rules in her appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Now, her career appears to be at a crossroads: Does she take medication to lower her testosterone? The medication will likely inhibit her athletic performance and could blunt her dominance. Or does she switch events and run in long-distance races not affected by the regulations?

She was emphatic when she told reporters after Friday's race that she wouldn't take the medication.

"That's an illegal method," she said.

But Semenya also didn't give a clear idea of what she would do next. She said she wouldn't move up to the 5,000 meters and she definitely wouldn't retire.

"God has decided my career, God will end my career," she said in the BBC interview. "No man, or any other human, can stop me from running. How am I going to retire when I'm 28? I still feel young, energetic. I still have 10 years or more in athletics."

"It doesn't matter how I'm going to do it. What matters is I'll still be here. I am never going anywhere."

Semenya's comments may foreshadow an appeal against the CAS ruling, aimed first at allowing Semenya to defend her 800 title at the world championships, also in Doha, in September and October while not taking the hormone-suppressing drugs.

But, if she keeps her promise not to lower her testosterone, there is a chance that Friday was the last time that Semenya runs



South Africa's Caster Semenya, right, competes to win the gold in the women's 800-meter final during the Diamond League in Doha, Qatar, Friday, May 3, 2019.

Associated Press

in the 800, where she is a double Olympic and a three-time world champion, and arguably the best female athlete to run the distance in 40 years.

Her career, however, seems destined to be overshadowed by the testosterone debate, which has the potential for implications far beyond her own results. Semenya gave away little

on the track to indicate it might be her last race at the distance. She raised her right fist when announcers introduced her before the race.

She was presented with a bunch of flowers and tossed them to the crowd at the end. She then gave a thumbs-up to fans, flashed a brief smile, and walked off the track. □



# Facebook bans 'dangerous individuals' cited for hate speech

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**  
AP Technology Writer  
**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** —

After years of pressure to crack down on hate and bigotry, Facebook has banned Louis Farrakhan, Alex Jones and other extremists, saying they violated its ban on "dangerous individuals."

The company also removed right-wing personalities Paul Nehlen, Milo Yiannopoulos, Paul Joseph Watson and Laura Loomer, along with Jones' site, Infowars, which often posts conspiracy theories. The latest bans apply to both Facebook's main service and to Instagram and extend to fan pages and other related accounts.

Decried as censorship by several of those who got the ax, the move signals a renewed effort by the social media giant to remove people and groups promoting objectionable material such as hate, racism and anti-Semitism.

Removing some of the best-known figures of the U.S. political extreme takes away an important virtual



This combination of file photo shows minister Louis Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam, in Tehran, Iran, on Nov. 8, 2018, left, and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones in Washington on Sept. 5, 2018, right.

Associated Press

megaphone that Facebook has provided the likes of Jones, Yiannopoulos and others over the years. But it does not address what might be done with lesser known figures and those who stay on the margins of what Facebook's policies allow.

Critics praised the move but said there is more to be done on both Facebook and Instagram.

"We know that there are still white supremacists and other extremist figures who are actively using both platforms to spread their hatred and bigotry,"

said Keegan Hanks, senior research analyst for the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks hate groups in the U.S.

Dipayan Ghosh, a former Facebook executive and an internet policy expert at Harvard, said the ban isn't as big a step as Facebook

appears to be painting it — it's just enforcing its existing policy.

"There will always be more purveyors of hate speech that try to come on these platforms," he said. "Will advocates have to push year after year just to get (a handful of) individuals off? At this rate it seems likely. And this doesn't address the problem of what happens at the margins."

Facebook has previously suspended Jones from its flagship service temporarily; this suspension is permanent and includes Instagram. Twitter has also banned Loomer, Jones and Yiannopoulos, though Farrakhan, the leader of the Nation of Islam long known for provocative comments widely considered anti-Semitic, still had an account Thursday. So did Watson, who rose to popularity as editor-at-large at Infowars and has nearly a million followers on the site.

Facebook said the newly banned accounts violated its policy against dangerous individuals and organizations. □

# Cyber officials call for coordinated 5G security approach

By **KELVIN CHAN and KAREL JANICEK**

**PRAGUE (AP)** — Cybersecurity officials from dozens of countries drew up a blueprint on Friday to counter threats and ensure the safety of next generation mobile networks that their nations are set to start deploying.

Officials hammered out a set of non-binding proposals published at the end of a two-day meeting organized by the Czech government to discuss the security of new 5G networks.

The meeting comes amid a simmering global battle between the U.S. and China's Huawei, the world's biggest maker of network infrastructure equipment.

The U.S. has been lobbying allies to ban Huawei from 5G networks over concerns China's government could force the company to give it access to data for cyberespionage. Huawei has



Joshua Steinman, an advisor to US President Donald Trump on cyber issues, adjusts his glasses prior the start of The Prague 5G Security Conference in Prague, Czech Republic, Thursday, May 2, 2019.

Associated Press

denied the allegations. Officials called for a cooperative approach to security, saying that they didn't want to target specific countries or companies. The proposals reflected the U.S. concerns, though some wording also appeared to

be aimed at raising the bar for Chinese suppliers. The document said "security and risk assessment of vendors and network technologies" should be taken into account, as well as "the overall risk of influence on a supplier by a third coun-

try," especially its "model of governance."

"Security and risk assessments of vendors and network technologies should take into account rule of law," it said.

U.S. officials have urged their allies to factor in the laws and legal system of a country where a 5G supplier is based, saying that China's lack of independent judiciary means companies have no legal recourse if they don't want to comply with Beijing's orders.

The U.S. has called for an outright ban on Huawei but European allies have balked. The European Commission has issued recommendations that call for risk assessments as well as factoring in the legal systems of the countries where 5G suppliers are headquartered.

Huawei's global cybersecurity and privacy officer, John Suffolk, said the com-

pany welcomed the meeting's "collaborative approach."

"As the EU continues its deliberations, we firmly believe that any future security principles should be based on verifiable facts and technical data."

At the meeting in Prague, the cybersecurity officials came mainly from countries that are strategic allies, including European Union member states, the United States and its Asia-Pacific allies including Australia, Japan and South Korea and Singapore. NATO and European Union officials also participated but China and Russia were not present.

Europe has become a key battleground in the war over whether to ban Huawei, with countries gearing up to deploy the new networks, starting with the auction of radio frequencies this year. □



# State of small business more mixed than administration says

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — As Small Business Week approaches, the nation's smallest companies in the aggregate are by many accounts doing fairly well. They're not, however, thriving en masse in direct response to Trump administration and Republican policies.

Small business hiring is erratic, according to numbers released by payroll provider ADP. Small businesses typically struggle to add jobs when the unemployment rate is very low, as it is now, at 3.8%. They often can't pay as much as larger companies or offer the comparatively robust benefits that big companies do, thereby leaving them at a disadvantage when workers are scarce.

Meanwhile, surveys by Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Capital One and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and MetLife show small business owners have been losing some of their optimism as doubts linger about the strength of the current economic expansion. The new tax law has had a mixed impact on small businesses and the trade war that began with Trump administration tariffs is hurting small manufacturers and retailers.

"Business is good, OK, but no different from how it's been throughout the bulk of this expansion," says Mark Zandi, chief economist with Moody's Analytics. "It's hard to argue that the president's policies have led to some kind of renaissance for small businesses that's going to mean great things forever."

The administration believes otherwise. Former Small Business Administrator Linda McMahon, in an opinion piece published last week on FoxBusiness.com, credited the administration's policies for helping the economy and in turn, small companies. She noted that she met with small business owners throughout her SBA tenure.

"I don't need a spreadsheet to tell me the president's America first program of tax,



In this July 18, 2018, file photo a "now hiring" sign hangs in the window of a Chinese restaurant in downtown Fargo, N.D.

Associated Press

trade, regulatory and energy reform is supercharging our economy," says McMahon, who resigned last month to work on President Donald Trump's re-election campaign. "I saw it and continue to see it with my own eyes — and through the eyes of the hundreds of business leaders I have met."

In a letter released last month by the SBA, Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Michelle Christian said, "we see small business owners taking advantage of the tax cuts and deregulation efforts led by President Trump to invest in their companies and their employees by raising wages, providing bonuses, increasing benefits, and creating more jobs. The economy is strong, and small businesses are thriving."

Economists and industry group officials see administration and GOP policies as having a mixed impact on small businesses — how a company is affected depends on the policy and the business's individual circumstances. But even if a company has benefited from one policy, it might be hurt by another.

"It's been one step forward and one step back," says David French, senior vice president of government relations at the industry group National Retail Fed-

eration. "A lot of the positive gains we've seen out of tax reform have been given back in lost sales and lost opportunities because of higher tariffs."

The administration's tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of Chinese and European products have sent costs higher for small businesses including manufacturers and retailers.

It can be a mistake to generalize about the companies that will be the focus of National Small Business Week May 5-11. The expression "small business" is used to describe companies with relatively few employees and small revenues compared to large companies with thousands of workers and hundreds of millions or billions of dollars coming in annually. But there is no typical small business — a retailer, dry cleaner, restaurant, manufacturer, dental office or auto mechanic can be a small business. Because these companies have vastly different structures, products and services, they have widely divergent needs and priorities, and government policies have a varying impact on them.

The tax law has had an uneven impact. Not all sole proprietors, partners and owners of what are called S corporations can take a new 20% deduction against

their business income; the provision excludes some industries and depends on filing status. For example, an owner of a small business whose spouse had high earnings from a job or other source might not qualify for the deduction. Nor could many people with professional practices such as doctors, architects and consultants. And while the law lowered the maximum corporate tax rate to 21% from 35%, the rate went up for many small corporations.

Under the previous tax law, Sandra Payne's construction equipment manufacturer had a 15% tax rate on the first \$50,000 in income. Under the new law, that rose to 21%.

"That was huge to us; it was a big deal," says Payne, president of Denver Concrete Vibrator in Colorado. Michael Rogers estimates he saved about \$3,100 in taxes because he was able to claim the 20% deduction for what's known as qualified business income from his Cleveland, Tennessee, real estate company, Chandler Properties. But the money won't be reinvested in his business; it will go to Rogers' family of four children.

Overall, it appears the tax law didn't help small businesses as much as the GOP predicted. In a Bank

of America survey of 1,504 small business owners released last week, 28% said the government's tax policy has been positive for their companies, down from the 45% who predicted a year ago it would be positive for them. Half said it was neutral, up from 39%, and 21% said the policy was negative for their companies, up from 15%.

Meanwhile, although Trump contends his trade policy is helping business, billions of dollars in taxes on Chinese and European imports and retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods have driven up prices for small companies and their customers. In the Federal Reserve's most recent Beige Book, its assessment of regional economies, eight of the 12 regional Fed banks reported businesses were affected by or concerned about tariffs that run as high as 25% on some products. While the April 17 report did not identify any of the companies as small businesses, it does show tariffs are an ongoing issue.

The tariffs are also negating some tax benefits under the new law, the NRF's French says.

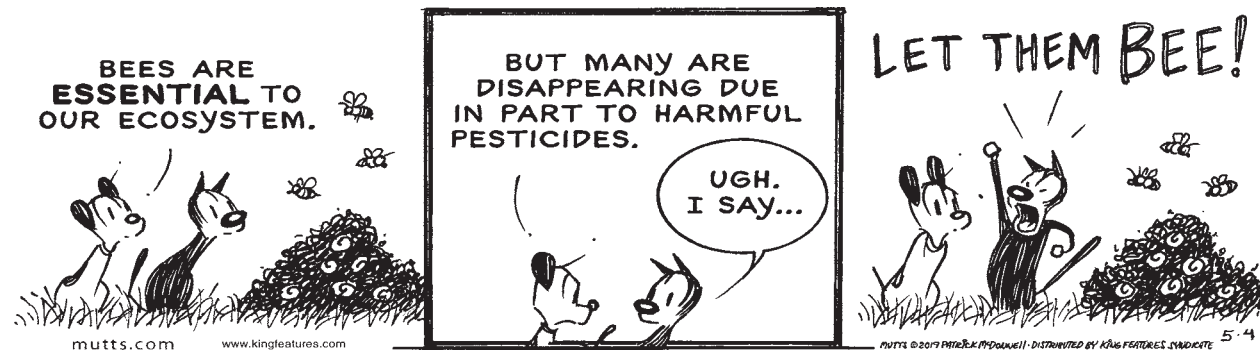
"If retailers benefit by consumers having more disposable income to spend, a portion of that disposable income has gone to tariffs," he says.

In a report released by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco in February, researchers found that tariffs already in place on Chinese imports have added 0.1 percentage point to consumer price inflation, a relatively small amount, and that the contribution of Chinese imports to overall personal consumption and business investment are also small. However, the report said, "when faced with tariffs as high as 25% on a broad set of product categories, even these small shares can lead to sizable upward pressures on prices."

Payne's company, which uses steel and other raw materials that have been hit by tariffs, is paying higher prices to suppliers. □



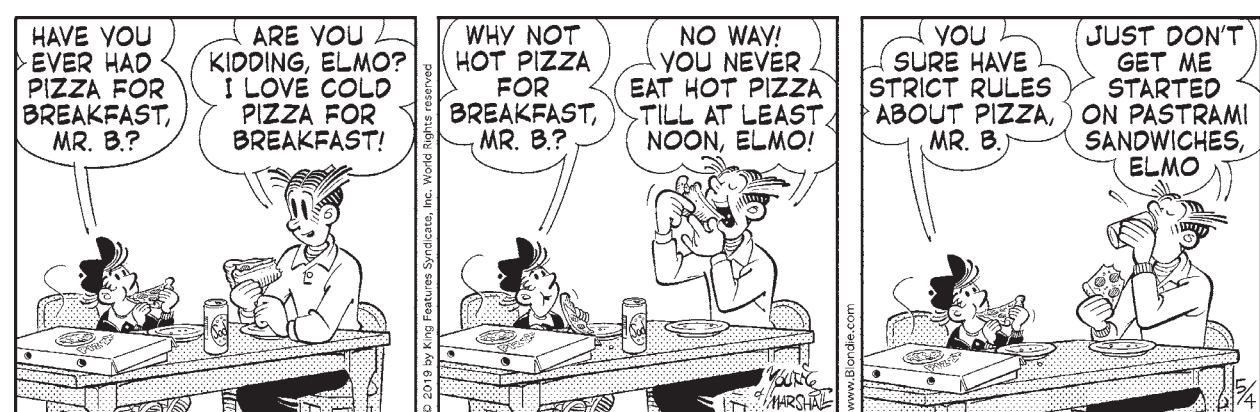
## Mutts



## 6 Chix



## Blondie



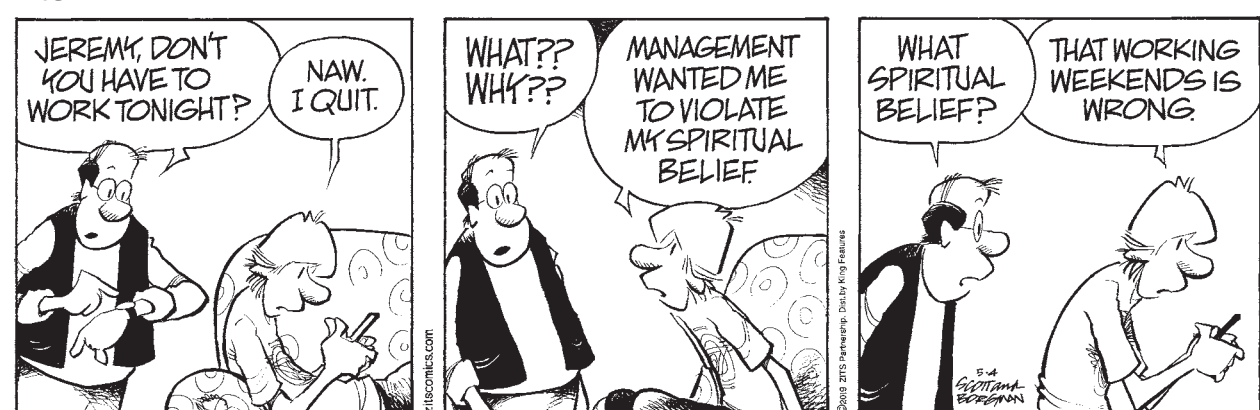
## Mother Goose & Grimm



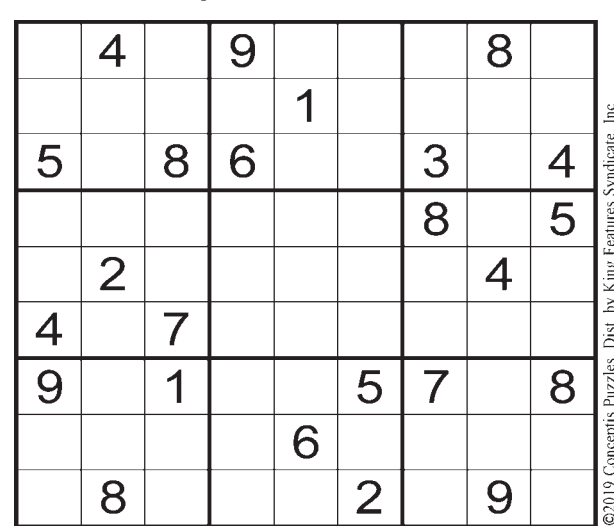
## Baby Blues



## Zits



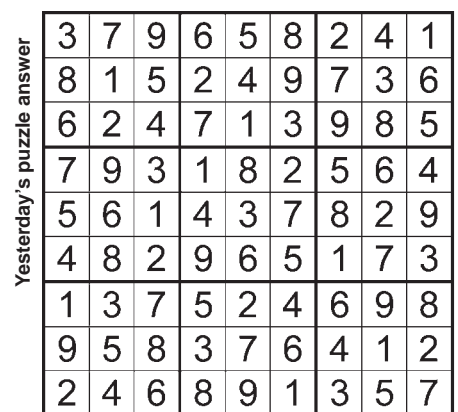
## Conceptis Sudoku



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concepts Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

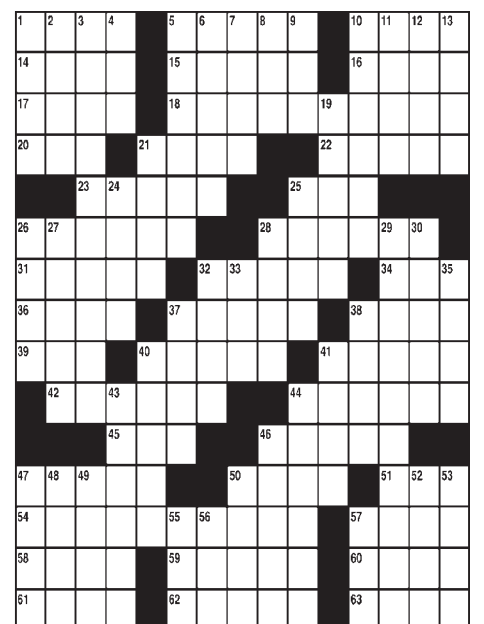


**ACROSS**

- 1 Imitate  
 5 Not as nuts  
 10 Slightly open  
 14 Villain  
 15 Peruvian pal  
 16 In a \_\_; furious  
 17 \_\_ down;  
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 18 Very talkative  
 20 Mayor pro \_\_;  
     interim leader  
 21 "The \_\_ Ranger"  
 22 Requirements  
 23 \_\_ to; because of  
 25 Want \_\_;  
     newspaper  
     section  
 26 Shaping devices  
 28 Light bulb  
     inventor  
 31 Alien  
 32 Public square  
 34 eBay offer  
 36 Opening for mail  
 37 Dudley or Demi  
 38 \_\_ club; singing  
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 39 Cheap metal  
 40 Marshmallow  
     chicks  
 41 Fruit drink  
 42 Reverse  
 44 Colored slightly  
 45 Acorn producer  
 46 Lightweight wood  
 47 Take place  
 50 Piece of china  
 51 Brown shade  
 54 Helicopter  
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 58 C-sharp or A-flat  
 59 Refueling ship  
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 62 Like poorly  
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 63 Pus-filled sac

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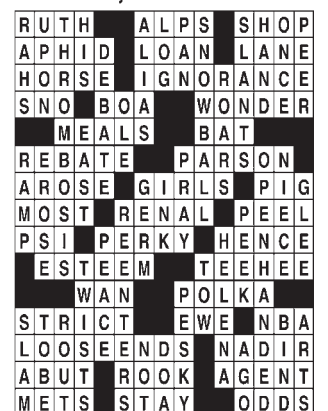
- |                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Expense         | 33 Cut off         |
| 2 Make eyes at    | 35 Landowner's     |
| 3 Job             | paper              |
| advancements      | 37 Submissive      |
| 4 Evergreen tree  | 38 Weapons         |
| 5 Beauty parlors  | 40 Singer Bailey   |
| 6 "There is honor | 41 Hill climber of |
| thieves"          | nursery rhyme      |



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/19

## Friday's Puzzle Solved



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5/4/19

- 43 Visited to see the sights  
44 Cheap & gaudy  
46 Like a dull speaker's audience  
47 \_\_\_ up; admits guilt  
48 Recipe verb  
49 Refer to
- 50 ...George H.W., \_\_\_ George W., Barack...  
52 Singing brothers of the '50s  
53 Mr. Grinch  
55 \_\_\_ Kippur  
56 Brief life sketch  
57 Network for "Cheers"





In this May 4, 2010, file photo, a sea lion tosses a partially eaten salmon in the Columbia River near Bonneville Dam, where six more sea lions were trapped earlier in the day with one to be euthanized, in North Bonneville, Wash.

Associated Press

## Salmon-eating sea lions targeted at Columbia River dam

By KEITH RIDLER  
Associated Press

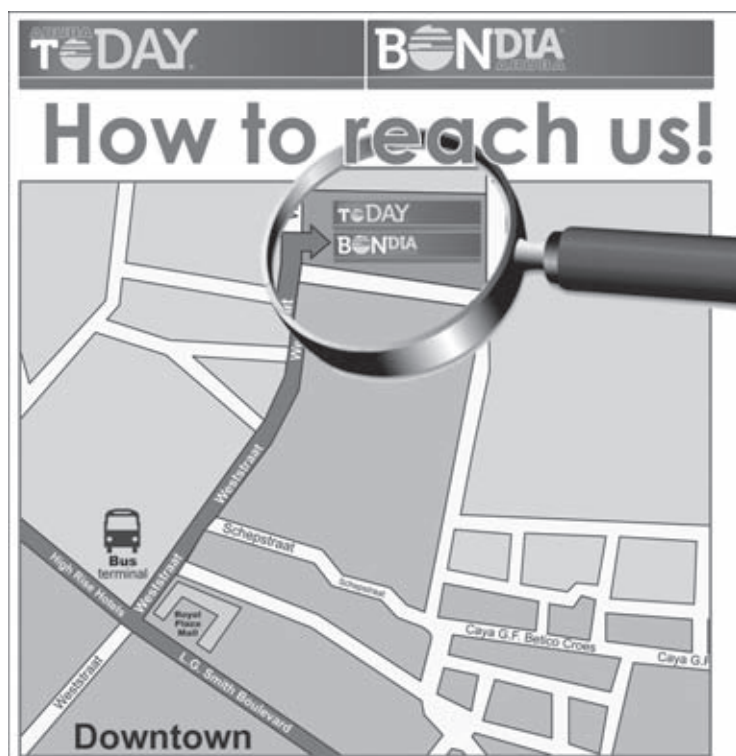
**BOISE, Idaho (AP)** — More California sea lions preying on imperiled salmon in the Columbia River below a hydroelectric project on the Oregon-Washington border are being killed under a revised policy, federal authorities said Friday. The National Marine Fisheries Service made public reduced criteria for removing sea lions at Bonneville Dam about 145 miles (235 kilometers) from the Pacific Ocean.

The new guidelines that went into effect April 17 permit any California sea lion seen in the area on five occasions or seen eating a fish to be put on a list for lethal removal.

The former criteria required both those marks to be met. Officials say 10 sea lions have been killed so far this year, most as a result of the policy change.

Robert Anderson, the agency's marine mammal program manager, said the Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force decided to make the change after dissatisfaction with current efforts. A study found the change could increase the number of sea lions killed by 66 percent.

Salmon and steelhead congregate near the bottom of the dam to go up fish ladders, facing some delays in "getting through the pinch points, and sea lions have figured that out," Anderson said. □



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# Salmon-eating sea lions targeted at Columbia River dam

By KEITH RIDLER

**BOISE, Idaho (AP)** — More California sea lions preying on imperiled salmon in the Columbia River below a hydroelectric project on the Oregon-Washington border are being killed under a revised policy, federal authorities said Friday.

The National Marine Fisheries Service made public reduced criteria for removing sea lions at Bonneville Dam about 145 miles (235 kilometers) from the Pacific Ocean.

The new guidelines that went into effect April 17 permit any California sea lion seen in the area on five occasions or seen eating a fish to be put on a list for lethal removal.

The former criteria required both those marks to be met. Officials say 10 sea lions have been killed so far this year, most as a result of the policy change.

Robert Anderson, the agency's marine mammal program manager, said the Pinniped-Fishery Interaction Task Force decided to make the change after dissatisfaction with current efforts. A study found the change could increase the number of sea lions killed



In this May 4, 2010, file photo, a sea lion tosses a partially eaten salmon in the Columbia River near Bonneville Dam, where six more sea lions were trapped earlier in the day with one to be euthanized, in North Bonneville, Wash.

Associated Press

by 66 percent.

Officials are authorized to remove 92 California sea lions annually from the area, but have never come close to that number. Meanwhile, billions of dollars have been spent in Idaho, Oregon and Washington to save 13 species of Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead protected under the Endangered Species Act. Salmon and steelhead congregate near the bot-

tom of the dam to go up fish ladders, facing some delays in "getting through the pinch points, and sea lions have figured that out," Anderson said.

The California sea lions at the dam are all males, with some 200 to 300 showing up and numbers typically peaking in the spring.

They're bulking up on salmon, with some sea lions reaching 1,000 pounds (455 kilograms), before

swimming roughly 800 miles (1,300 kilometers) to breeding beaches at the Channel Islands off the California coast. Once there they try to establish territories, not eating for a month while mating with females in their area of control and fighting off rival males.

"It's kind of classic biology," Anderson said. "Get as big as you can to try to be successful."

An estimated 70,000 Cali-

fornia sea lions are drawn to the breeding beaches. The overall population rebounded from about 30,000 in the late 1960s to an estimated 300,000 today, following the passage of the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act.

California sea lions at Bonneville Dam were a rarity until they started showing up in the early 2000s. Authorities began the lethal removal list in 2008. Since then, some 400 sea lions have made the list, with 229 removed. Of those, 15 have been sent to zoos or aquariums, seven died during capture, and 207 have been euthanized.

Killing sea lions "is not a long-term solution," said Russ Kiefer, an Idaho Fish and Game fisheries biologist, noting the main problem for salmon and steelhead is habitat degradation along their migration corridor. "It won't be a game changer, but it will help."

Snake River sockeye salmon, which reproduce in high-elevation Idaho lakes, teetered on extinction for several years before an elaborate hatchery program involving Fish and Game was created. □



A SpaceX Falcon 9 remains on space launch complex 40 after a scrubbed launch attempt to deliver supplies to the International Space Station at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on Friday, May 3, 2019, in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Associated Press

## SpaceX delays launch to freshly repaired space station

By MARCIA DUNN

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)** — SpaceX delayed a supply run Friday to the International Space Station, back to full power and accepting deliveries after quick repairs.

A Falcon rocket was poised to blast off before dawn Friday, with a Dragon cargo capsule. But an electrical problem cropped up at the last minute with the ocean platform needed to recover the first-stage booster following liftoff.

SpaceX said it will try again early Saturday morning. The delivery is already running a few days late because of a space station power shortage that stalled deliveries until a failed electrical box could be replaced.

NASA completed the job Thursday.

The landing platform was stationed 14 miles (22 kilometers) offshore. The new booster was originally supposed to return to Cape Canaveral Air Force Station for eventual recycling, but SpaceX is still cleaning up from the April 20 accident that destroyed a crew Dragon capsule. The empty capsule was undergoing ground testing when the blast occurred. The cause is not yet known.

SpaceX said before Saturday's launch attempt, it will patch a helium leak at the launch pad that also occurred late in the countdown. With only a split second to launch the rocket, there was not enough time

to solve any issues.

If the Dragon capsule isn't flying by Saturday, SpaceX will have to wait a week before its next try because of other Air Force operations. □



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# Carrie Underwood lifting up women on new Cry Pretty Tour 360

By KRISTIN M. HALL

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

When Carrie Underwood was plotting out her upcoming Cry Pretty Tour 360, she realized she had selected an all-female lineup with opening acts Maddie & Tae and Runaway June. But then she wondered: "Can we do that?"

And then told herself: "OK, we have to do this!"

In a genre that often only designates one or two slots to female acts for festivals or tours, Underwood's arena tour kicks off Wednesday in Greensboro, North Carolina, with six women behind the mic throughout the show. It's becoming a pattern for women in country music, as Miranda Lambert, Maren Morris and Kacey Musgraves all have had all-female or mostly-female tours recently.

"I feel like it's been a really great time for women to kind of come together and be like, 'Let's support each other. We're all in this together. Let's be all in this together,'" Underwood said.

After her No. 1 album "Cry Pretty" came out last year, Underwood is hitting the road again and playing in more than 50 cities through October. Sitting down in a Nashville rehearsal hall where they were practicing



This April 7, 2019 file photo shows Carrie Underwood, center, performing "Southbound" at the 54th annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

for the tour, Underwood blushed when her supporting acts recounted how her songs were intertwined with their own careers.

Naomi Cooke from Runaway June remembers always getting requests to cover "Before He Cheats" when she played at Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, a downtown honky tonk. Taylor Dye of Maddie & Tae recalled that she often won local talent shows when she sang "Cowboy Casanova" or "Temporary Home."

Underwood will be returning to the center of the arenas for this tour, following her 2016 Storyteller Tour that also featured a center stage that allowed her to spread out. The seven-time Grammy winner is an energetic performer, typically sprinting around and singing from all sides of the stage and blowing away fans with her impressive vocal chops.

"I loved being able to see so much more of the audience and be able to connect

so much with so many more people," Underwood said.

She's bringing the whole family on the road with her, including 4-year-old Isaiah, three-month old Jacob Bryan, and her husband, former NHL player Mike Fisher. "Somebody's got to watch the kids when I am onstage," Underwood said with a laugh.

The music industry isn't always supportive of working moms and Underwood has been blunt and honest

about those pressures, posting on Instagram about her post-baby body or having to pump as she was getting ready for the Academy of Country Music Awards.

"(Isaiah) was 11 months old when we started the last tour," Underwood said. "So it was very much like: do a little makeup, make him dinner, come back and do my hair, then get him ready for bed. So it was worlds colliding, but it was great. I'm so lucky I get to take my kids to work with me and not everybody gets to do that."

The tour comes at an important time for both Maddie & Tae and Runaway June, who both have new albums coming this year.

"We've never performed our music in a lot of these cities," said Cooke of Runaway June (Hannah Mulholland and Jennifer Wayne round out the trio). "We literally couldn't have dreamed up a better platform for us to be releasing new music and playing new songs."

In a year when no women were nominated for entertainer of the year at the ACMs, Underwood — who has won that award twice — has a chance to prove that women deserve to be in that category again. □

# Jennifer McMahon's 'The Invited' is a powerful novel

By OLIVE H. COGDILL

Associated Press

"The Invited: a Novel" (Doubleday), by Jennifer McMahon

Jennifer McMahon again proves that the modern ghost story is more than things that go bump in the night. It hinges on reality, slowly building to a terror that seems real and sometimes personal, as it does in McMahon's highly entertaining "The Invited."

McMahon's powerful novel supplies a plethora of frights that emerge from believable characters trying to navigate normal lives.

Helen and Nate Wetherell have good jobs at an elite private school in Connecticut. He teaches science,

she teaches history. They live in a nice condo and try not to live outside their means. But Helen's ennui is palatable — vanishing only when she volunteers in a "living museum" that recreates life in the mid-1800s for visitors. While happily married, the couple's life seems set in stone until Helen inherits a large sum of money when her father dies.

The opportunity to change their lives is irresistible. They buy 44 heavily wooded acres just outside the small rural village in Vermont on which the avid do-it-yourselfers plan to build their dream home. That the land is believed to be haunted by Hattie Breckenridge who was hanged as a witch on

the property in 1924 is a kind of a bonus, especially appealing to the historian in Helen. She doesn't believe in ghosts, but she does believe in history.

Helen may have to rethink her views when strange things happen at the dilapidated trailer on the land where they are staying. Eerie packages are left on the doorstep; items such as cell phones, wallets and money disappear, and what looks like Hattie's ghost hovers over the land's bog. These supposedly supernatural happenings may be a way of scaring away the couple because legend has it that Hattie buried treasure on the land. One of the locals who most wants the cou-

ple gone is their 14-year-old neighbor, Olive Kissner, whose mother promised to find the treasure before the woman supposedly ran away.

McMahon keeps "The Invited" grounded in reality, even when spirits supposedly hover over the land. The Wetherells' relationship is well designed with the building of their house serving as a metaphor for their marriage — with some construction going smoothly, collapsing at other times. Helen's embracing their new home's myths is nicely balanced by Nate's skepticism. And McMahon doesn't forget the little details of life. A ghost spotting pales when planning



This cover image released by Doubleday shows "The Invited," a novel by Jennifer McMahon.

Associated Press

a household budget, especially when you've quit your job. □



# Summer Movie Preview: The women behind 'Booksmart'

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — If you've heard anything about the film "Booksmart," you've probably also heard the words "female 'Superbad'." The high school comedy is about two best friends over the course of one epic 24-hour period. And, yes, the friends are women played by Kaitlyn Dever and Beanie Feldstein (incidentally, Jonah Hill's sister). While director Olivia Wilde

likes "Superbad" and understands there are similarities, she doesn't love the descriptor. "I do kind of bristle at comparisons that female-led films are granted, as though we can't be our own film," Wilde said. "I can't wait till someone does that to a guy's movie, like this is a guy's 'Booksmart.'" "Booksmart" is the kind of movie that might inspire that kind of change when it



This image released by Annapurna Pictures shows Billie Lourd, left, and Kaitlyn Dever in a scene from the film "Booksmart," directed by Olivia Wilde.

Associated Press

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FRI 4:40 | 6:45 | 8:50 | 10:55  
SAT 2:35 | 4:40 | 6:45 | 8:50 | 10:55  
SUN 2:35 | 4:40 | 6:45 | 8:50

MON-FRI 3:45 | 5:50 | 7:55  
SAT-SUN 1:40 | 3:45 | 5:50 | 7:55

SETH ROGEN | CHARLIZE THERON

**LONGSHOT**

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH MON-THU 5:45 | 8:30  
FRI 5:45 | 8:30 | 11:15  
SAT 3:00 | 5:45 | 8:30 | 11:15  
SUN 3:00 | 5:45 | 8:30

PBP MON-SUN 3:40 | 6:25 | 9:10

YVI MON-SUN 3:40 | 6:25 | 9:10

PBP FRI-SAT 10:10

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PH MON-THU 5:45 | 8:10  
FRI 5:45 | 8:10 | 10:35  
SAT 1:00 | 3:20 | 5:45 | 8:10 | 10:35  
SUN 1:00 | 3:20 | 5:45 | 8:10

PBP MON-THU 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30  
FRI 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30 | 11:55  
SAT 2:15 | 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30 | 11:55  
SUN 2:15 | 4:40 | 7:05 | 9:30

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PH MON-FRI 4:05 | 7:50

PH MON-THU 4:35 | 6:50 | 8:20  
FRI 4:35 | 6:50 | 8:20 | 10:30  
SAT 12:50 | 3:05 | 4:35 | 6:50 | 8:20 | 10:30  
SUN 12:50 | 3:05 | 4:35 | 6:50 | 8:20

PBP MON-FRI 4:55 | 8:40  
SAT-SUN 1:10 | 4:55 | 8:40

CXC MON-SUN 3:45 | 7:30

PBP MON-THU 6:30  
FRI 6:30 | 10:10  
SAT 2:45 | 6:30 | 10:10  
SUN 2:45 | 6:30

MON-FRI 4:55 | 8:40  
SAT-SUN 1:10 | 4:55 | 8:40

LINDA CARDELLINI | RAYMOND CRUZ

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opens nationwide on May 24. It's a generational anthem about two super-students who on the last night of school decide to break their own rules and attend some parties.

It's so of the moment that it might come as a surprise that the script has been around for a decade, originally written by Emily Halpern and Sarah Haskins, with revisions a few years later by Susanna Fogel. Eventually, Gloria Sanchez Productions founder Jessica Elbaum got a call about it. Annapurna was looking for a director, and she had an unconventional idea: Wilde, who had never directed a movie.

"I said, I know you have no reason to say yes to this, but I'm telling you, Olivia Wilde is going to be an amazing director," Elbaum said.

The two had been friends for years and were working on something else together. And even though Wilde had only directed a few music videos, Elbaum had a hunch that this was the perfect fit for the actress' feature debut. And she was right.

"This was a movie I really wanted to see," said Wilde. "It was a story about two very smart girls who are best friends at a time in life when your best friends are what allow you to survive adolescence. That is an im-

portant story to tell. I hadn't seen that in a great young female best friends comedy. And the clarity with which I could see it made me feel like I had to direct it."

And with that, Wilde, Elbaum and writer Katie Silberman ("Set It Up") got to work translating the script into something that would be representative of teens in 2019. Silberman had the idea that even the party kids at the school were smart, not just the protagonists Molly (Feldstein) and Amy (Dever).

"I was a real Molly," Silberman said. "I learned too late that all the people I thought were just cool were absolutely as smart as me if not smarter. So it was kind of wish fulfillment of what I hoped had happened before I graduate."

They had total freedom when it came to casting, and while there are familiar adult faces in supporting roles like Wilde's partner Jason Sudeikis, Lisa Kudrow and Will Forte, the teens are all up and comers and unknowns and some who audiences haven't yet seen the full potential of, like Billie Lourd in a breakout comedic performance.

"It's a not a huge budget, but we didn't make it for \$100,000 in our back yard," Wilde said. "(Annapurna) enabled us to make a film

without any movie stars. And that is rare! I don't know another studio who would have let me cast whoever I wanted."

Her tonal touchstones ranged the gamut from teen classics like "Dazed and Confused" and "Fast Times at Ridgemont High," to the likes of "Beverly Hills Cop" and "The Blues Brothers."

She even suggested that her leads live together during the shoot in Los Angeles. Feldstein and Dever went above and beyond and did so during pre-production too.

"They worked 90 hours a week shooting the film and then would go home and live together and spend 100 percent of their time together which is why the texture of that chemistry is tangible, it's authentic," Wilde said. "That's something you just can't fake."

On the set, which Elbaum describes as the "happiest" she's ever been on, Wilde also took a page from Martin Scorsese and asked that her cast not have scripts on set. Much to Elbaum's surprise, everyone obliged.

The film premiered earlier this year to an enthusiastic response at the South by Southwest Film Festival, and they've been showing it at colleges around the country to similarly positive reactions since. □



# Peter Mayhew, Chewbacca in the 'Star Wars' films, dies at 74

By ANDREW DALTON

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Peter Mayhew, the towering actor who donned a huge, furry costume to give life to the rugged-and-beloved character of Chewbacca in the original "Star Wars" trilogy and two other films, has died, his family said Thursday.

Mayhew died at his home in north Texas on Tuesday, according to a family statement. He was 74. No cause was given.

As Chewbacca, known to his friends as Chewie, the 7-foot-3 Mayhew was a fierce warrior with a soft heart, loyal sidekick to Harrison Ford's Han Solo, and co-pilot of the Millennium Falcon.

Mayhew went on to appear as the Wookiee in the 2005 prequel "Revenge of the Sith" and shared the part in 2015's "The Force Awakens" with actor Joonas Suotamo, who took over the role in subsequent films. "Peter Mayhew was a kind and gentle man, possessed of great dignity and noble character," Ford said in a statement Thursday. "These aspects of his own personality, plus his wit and grace, he brought to Chewbacca. We were partners in film and friends in life for over 30 years and I loved him... My thoughts are with his dear wife Angie and his children. Rest easy, my dear friend." Mayhew defined the incredibly well-known Wookiee and became a world-famous actor for most of his life without speaking a word or even making a sound — Chewbacca's famous roar was the creation of sound designers.

"He put his heart and soul into the role of Chewbacca and it showed in every frame of the films," the family statement said. "But, to him, the 'Star Wars' family meant so much more to him than a role in a film."

Mark Hamill, who played Luke Skywalker alongside Mayhew, wrote on Twitter that he was "the gentlest of giants — A big man with an even bigger heart who never failed to make me smile & a loyal friend who



In this Dec. 14, 2015, file photo, Peter Mayhew arrives at the world premiere of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

I loved dearly. I'm grateful for the memories we shared & I'm a better man for just having known him." Born and raised in England, Mayhew had appeared in just one film and was working as a hospital orderly in London when George Lucas, who shot the first film in England, found him and cast him in 1977's "Star Wars."

Lucas chose quickly when he saw Mayhew, who liked to say all he had to do to land the role was stand up.

"Peter was a wonderful man," Lucas said in a statement Thursday. "He was the closest any human being could be to a Wookiee: big heart, gentle nature ... and I learned to always let him win. He was a good friend and I'm saddened by his passing."

From then on, "Star Wars" would become Mayhew's life. He made constant appearances in the costume in commercials, on TV specials and at public events. The frizzy long hair he had

most of his adult life made those who saw him in real life believe he was Chewbacca, along with his stature.

His height, the result of a genetic disorder known as Marfan syndrome, was the source of constant health complications late in his life. He had respiratory problems, his speech grew limited and he often had to use scooters and wheelchairs instead of walking. His family said his fighting through that to play the

role one last time in "The Force Awakens" was a triumph.

Even after he retired, Mayhew served as an adviser to his successor Suotamo, a former Finnish basketball player who told The Associated Press last year that Mayhew put him through "Wookiee boot camp" before he played the role in "Solo."

Mayhew spent much of the last decades of his life in the United States, and he became a U.S. citizen in 2005.

The 200-plus-year-old character whose suit has been compared to an ape, a bear, and Bigfoot, and wore a bandolier with ammunition for his laser rifle, was considered by many to be one of the hokier elements in the original "Star Wars," something out of a more low-budget sci-fi offering.

The films themselves seemed to acknowledge this.

"Will somebody get this big walking carpet out of my way?!" Carrie Fisher, as Princess Leia, says in the original "Star Wars." It was one of the big laugh lines of the film, as was Ford calling Chewie a "fuzzball" in "The Empire Strikes Back."

But Chewbacca would become as enduring an element of the "Star Wars" galaxy as any other character.

## Jersey's Springsteen readies a Western-style album

By The Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Fresh off his Broadway run, New Jersey's Bruce Springsteen looked West for inspiration on a new album he's planning to release on June 14. The 13-song disc is his first new studio album in five years. Titled "Western Stars," Springsteen said Thursday the album draws some inspiration from southern California pop records of the late 1960s and early 1970s. He's releasing a song and video called "Hello Sunshine" after midnight on Thursday. Springsteen wrapped up a 236-show Broadway run last December.

Springsteen recorded it primarily at home in New Jersey, with additional work in California and New York. Ron Aniello produced and plays on the album, which also has contributions from Springsteen's wife Patti Scialfa, Jon Brion, David Sancious, Charlie Giordano and Soozie Tyrell.

"This record is a return to my solo recordings featuring character-driven songs and sweeping, cinematic orchestral arrangements," he said. "It's a jewel box of a record." Among the song titles are "Hitch Hikin'," "Sleepy Joe's Cafe," "Chasin' Wild Horses" and "There Goes My Miracle." □



This cover image released by Columbia Records shows "Western Stars," the next album by Bruce Springsteen to release on June 14.

Associated Press



# Israel preserves Holocaust survivors' memorabilia for future

By ARON HELLER

Associated Press

**RAMAT GAN, Israel (AP)** —

Under a fluorescent light, an archivist from Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial snaps photos and scans into her mobile database the last remnant that a pair of elderly siblings have of their long-lost father — a 1943 postcard Samuel Akerman tossed in desperation out of the deportation train hurtling him toward his demise in the Majdanek death camp.

"It's what we have left from him," said Rachel Zeiger, his now 91-year-old daughter. "But this is not for the family. It is for the next generations."

With the world's community of aging Holocaust survivors rapidly shrinking, and their live testimonies soon to be a thing of the past, efforts such as these have become the forefront of preparing for a world without them.

Through its "Gathering the Fragments" program, Yad Vashem has collected some 250,000 items from survivors and their families in recent years to be stored for posterity and displayed online in hopes of preserving the memory of the 6 million Jews killed by the Nazis, even after the last of the survivors has passed away.

Copious video testimonies have been filmed and even holograms have been produced to try to recreate the powerful impact of a survivor's recollection, which has been the staple of Holocaust commemoration for decades. This year, an Instagram account was created based on the real-life journal of a teenage Jewish victim to make her story more accessible to a younger generation.

With the passing of time, any physical links to the Holocaust and its victims have become valuable means of remembrance and evidence against the growing tide of denial and minimization of the genocide around the world.

As Israel starts marking its annual Holocaust Remembrance Day at sundown



In this Tuesday, April 23, 2019 photo, Israeli Holocaust survivors Rachel Zeiger 91, and her brother Moshe Akerman 84, give an interview to The Associated Press at their home in Ramat Gan, Israel. Associated Press

Wednesday, Yad Vashem will be laying the cornerstone of its new campus for the Shoah Heritage Collections Center — the future permanent home for its 210 million documents, 500,000 photographs, 131,000 survivor testimonies, 32,400 artifacts and 11,500 works of art related to the Holocaust. On Thursday, it will offer the public a rare behind-the-scenes look of its preservation work, with tours of its collection, archive and digitizing labs.

"The German Nazis were determined not only to an-

ihilate the Jewish people, but also to obliterate their identity, memory, culture and heritage," said Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev. "By preserving these precious items ... and revealing them to the public they will act as the voice of the victims and the survivors and serve as an everlasting memory."

Samuel Akerman's jarring letter to his family will soon join the collected assortment.

"My heart is bitter. I unfortunately have to inform you that I, together with 950 oth-

er people, am headed toward an unknown destination," he scribbled in shaky handwriting to his two children on Feb. 27, 1943, from inside the packed transport. "I may not be able to write you again ... pray to God that we will joyfully see each other again. Don't give up hope and I am sure God will help us."

Akerman, a diamond merchant who dreamed of moving to pre-state Israel, was never heard from again.

A bystander likely found the discarded postcard on

the ground and mailed it to Zeiger and her younger brother, Moshe, in occupied France, where they had fled from their home in Belgium after the Nazis invaded. After the father was deported, the rest — mother, grandmother and the two children — survived by assuming false, Christian identities.

Zeiger recalls several close encounters when their cover was nearly lost. Once, the Gestapo arrived in the early morning hours to seize a Jewish family hiding in the ground floor of their building. When the Nazis knocked on their third-floor door, a teenage Zeiger presented their fake papers in her fluent French to convince them they had nothing to look for there.

"I've never felt that way in my life," she recalled from her quaint house in Ramat Gan, just outside Tel Aviv. "I had to vomit after they left. My whole body clenched." After the war, they returned to Antwerp to find their home ravaged. They waited there several years, in the faint hope that their father would somehow return, before giving up and moving to Israel.

The postcard remained stashed away as a vestige of their painful past for more than 75 years, until Moshe Akerman heard of the Yad Vashem campaign seeking personal effects of aging survivors.

"My kids are glad I did it so that this testimony will exist, because otherwise you don't talk about it," said Akerman, 84. "It's a small testimony to what happened, another drop in this sea of testimony. It doesn't uncover anything new. The facts are known. What happened happened, and this is another small proof of it." Besides rounding up Jews and shipping them to death camps, the Nazis and their collaborators confiscated their possessions and stole their valuables, leaving little behind. Those who survived often had just a small item or two they managed to keep. Many have clung to the sentimental objects ever since. □



In this Tuesday, April 23, 2019 photo, Israeli Yad Vashem officials Orit Noima, left, and Simmy Allen, watch archivist Lena Shternberg reproduce holocaust era photographs and documents at their home at the city of Ramat Gan. Associated Press